Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Asad, Mubarak Reject Call for Arab Summit

JN1511142790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1401 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Following the conclusion of the second round of closed talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak this afternoon, it was announced that the two presidents reject the call by Morocco's King Hassan II to hold an exceptional Arab summit.

A press statement issued at the end of the talks says that Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak paid special attention to the Moroccan king's call and in view of Baghdad's statement doubting the real intentions behind the Moroccan call and setting preconditions that make it difficult—if not impossible—to hold such a summit, particularly remarks by Iraqi officials following an Iraqi statement declaring that the Iraqi leadership abided by its refusal to withdraw from Kuwait and continued the annexation of the State of Kuwait, Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak voiced their regret that Iraq had aborted any political solution seeking to restore the state of affairs in Kuwait to the pre-invasion situation.

The two presidents also emphasized their determination to pursue consultations between them and with Arab brothers to safeguard the Arab nation's supreme interests and unity.

Principles on Summit

JN1511205590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo carried on the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Well-informed Egyptian sources have told our radio that during their talks the Egyptian and Syrian presidents emphasized several principles to define how their countries view participation in the Arab summit called by Moroccan King Hassan II.

These principles are the following:

1. The need to have an explicit Iraqi stand stressing withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

2. Iraq should officially declare that it is ready to attend the summit in accordance with the conditions set by the Arabs and the international community to safeguard security in the Gulf region.

3. Iraq is not the only one concerned with deciding the summit's agenda; it is the concern of all Arab countries without exception.

4. The summit agenda is explicit. It includes Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and security safeguards for the Gulf states. The summit was originally called to settle the Gulf crisis, and consequently, other topics that have nothing to do with the crisis should be permitted on the agenda.

In light of these conditions and the conditiions Iraq had set to attend the summit, the sources rule out the participation of Egypt and Syria in the summit unless Iraq gives up its intransigent conditions.

Iraq Expelled From Gulf Federation of Chambers

LD1511114190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Iraq has been expelled from the Gulf Federation of Chambers [Ittihad al-Ghuraf al-Khalijiyah]. A new federation named the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture, and Industry has been set up, the membership of which is confined to the six [GCC] countries: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. The decision was reached at the third extraordinary meeting of the Arab Gulf chambers under the chairmanship of the federation's president, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Mulla.

Cairo-Damascus Route Opens 15 Nov

NC1011123190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, today said that the overland transport service linking Cairo and Damascus via the Jordanian territories will begin operating this Thursday.

The minister said that Egypt, Syria, and Jordan have agreed to operate one weekly trip, which can be increased according to future needs, along the overland route.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Shawqi, director of the Arab Union Company for Land Transport, said that he met last week in Damascus with the directors of the Syrian company Karnak and the Jordanian company Jet to discuss the general arrangements for operating that line. Their meeting produced an agreement that has been endorsed by the Jordanian and Syrian transport ministers.

Shawqi said that the company is currently getting in touch with the passengers who had reserved places on the first trip, which was to be on 1 November, to inform them that their reservations will be valid for the inaugural trip if they wish to go. The line's first trip was postponed when Jordanian authorities objected to the line's passage through their country.

Arab Interior Ministers' Conference Posponed

JN1511094590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 15 Nov (WAKH)—The secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council has decided to postpone the meetings of the ninth conference of Arab

interior ministers. The meeting was was due to be held in Bahrain from 1-3 December 1990.

The Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM said the reason for postponing the meetings of the conference goes back to the current situation in the Arab arena resulting from the oppressive Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls for 'Intensive' Summit Preparations

JN1511123890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the war of the new generals in the occupied territories—in the full sense of the expression—will continue against the Israeli occupation authorities until victory and liberation.

Answering AL-SHA'B's question on the mounting Israeli oppression on the second anniversary of the proclamation of the Palestinian state, 'Arafat said that Shamir, Levi, Sharon, and all extremists in Israel must know that the blessed intifadah will continue, with God's help, wave after wave, with full determination and deep-rooted national and religious belief, until the Palestinian flag is raised over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem and prayers are held in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. [passage omitted]

Asked about the venue of the proposed Arab summit, 'Arafat said that, during his speech and call for the summit, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco said he was ready to attend the summit in any Arab capital.

'Arafat stressed the importance of good and intensive preparations for the summit so that it can crown the virtuous Arab efforts and result in positive and constructive resolutions that fully contribute to the Arab solution, which will then be given international approval.

Mr. 'Arafat criticized the role of the Security Council in the Gulf crisis, saying there have been no real UN measures so far to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis. The United Nations has issued successive resolutions, but without solutions, he said. 'Arafat added, however, that the Arab solution has begun to make its way in international circles and outside the "Arab solution countries." He said there was international accord on the need to find a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Asked about Israel's acceptance of the UN secretary general's envoy outside the framework of the Security Council resolution, 'Arafat said this acceptance is an unsuccessful Israeli attempt. He expressed hope that this attempt would not be given U.S. or British cover.

On the U.S. position, 'Arafat said that the U.S. Administration continues to give unlimited support to the Israeli occupation and for Israeli crimes against our Palestinian people and sacred places. The U.S. Administration used the veto seven times in one year to protect these crimes, he noted.

Palestinians Urge UN To Curtail Israeli Actions

JN1611073190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1929 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The state of Palestine has urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to take the necessary measures to halt the illegal practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against our Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

This demand was contained in a message Palestinian UN delegate brother Nasir al-Qudwah handed to the UNSC president this month.

Salah Khalaf Interviewed on Current Situation

NC1611102890 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 22-25

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] by Majdah Sabra in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Sabra] It has been reported that three parties, including the PLO, have contributed to defusing the situation in the Gulf. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has visited Iraq several times. The Palestinian ambassador in Tunis has met with the French president's aides. In other words, there is intensive Palestinian activity on the political level, especially with France.

[Khalaf] Since the outset of the Gulf crisis we have adopted a principled stand whereby we reject the occupation of one state by another under any name or pretext. But now that the occupation of Kuwait has occurred, we must find a political solution to the crisis because the alternative is a military solution which we believe would have a devastating impact all parties. Anyone who believes that Iraq would be the only target of a military strike is mistaken. On the contrary, a military strike would target the Arab posture.

Although our stand calling for a political solution has not been understood by Europeans and many Arabs, we have persevered in our contacts based on this premise which calls for finding an Arab solution now because this is something the Arab nation is capable of doing.

What happened in Cairo during the summit was a hasty attempt to impose a certain point of view on the rest of the Arabs. This resulted in the failure of the Cairo conference.

I believe that the world is showing increasing understanding of our ideas. Several European states have begun to see the futility of a military solution and have

stated their preference for a political solution. Brother Abu-'Ammar's proposals reflect our political activity. He has initiated a dialogue with most parties to the crisis, including the Iraqis and the French. We followed Primakov's two visits to Baghdad very closely. We are doing our best to promote the peaceful efforts undertaken by the Soviets, the French, and other parties.

[Sabra] We have noticed that the Palestinian side is very enthusiastic about the French initiative.

[Khalaf] We are enthusiastic about any party which is inclined toward a political solution. We support those who encourage such a solution, be they French or Italians. We have done our best to put them into the picture and to show them the danger of war and the importance of a political solution.

[Sabra] How do you describe the Iraqi position?

[Khalaf] I believe that Iraq has recently begun moving toward a political solution. This has become clear and it facilitates the our mission and that of our friends. This does not mean that a political solution is imminent, and the possibility of war at any moment remains. However, we are doing our utmost to keep war away from this region.

[Sabra] The French president said last week that he could not tell whether there would be war after 6 November. He then stated that he would send representatives from the French social security department to Saudi Arabia. They would be responsible for notifying relatives of those killed or missing.

[Khalaf] Any party which would not be making the decision in favor of war cannot be sure that there will not be one. I do not believe it is France or the Soviet Union or we ourselves that would make such a decision. This decision is in the hands of the United States, and so only it can know for certain if or when war will break out. The French analyze the situation on the basis that they do not possess the war decision and hence they are working for a political situation. At the same time, they cannot prevent war.

It is true that the drums of war are beating everywhere. However, if we are interested in an in-depth analysis of the situation, we will find that American voices are being raised at present in reaction to the Soviet-French movement toward a political solution.

There is American "fury." They cannot stand one of the parties involved in blockading Iraq breaking away from the consensus. Accordingly, the Iraqi initiative to release the French hostages aggravated the security crisis. The U.S. escalation hides fears that the schism may extend to the European-American stand. This explains the American "fury."

I tend to believe that this "fury" is not one of war, but rather of people who are offended by the French, Soviet, and Iraqi stands. They do not want any kind of communication to take place behind their backs. That is why American voices were raised recently.

The U.S. President is faced with upcoming elections. He wanted to prepare American public opinion for war. Therefore, deadlines for military operations have been fixed since 2 August, and they have not changed.

In my view, if the Americans thought war would be easy, they would have launched it at the beginning. They are well aware that war will not be easy and that they will not be able to destroy Iraq with a single blow. After all, Iraq is not Panama or Grenada. Therefore, if we pursue a political solution, this does not mean that we are biased in favor of Iraq. Absolutely not. We are biased in favor of the entire Arab nation. The conflict will be in the oil region and harm will come to the countries of the region and other regions as well. That is why I am surprised at Arabs who are eager for war and who are trying to infect the United States with this eagerness.

[Sabra] Did the Iraqi president's actions create a real schism in the American-European stand or is this schism only for the sake of appearances?

[Khalaf] I believe that the schism was already there before the release of the French hostages. If we ask ourselves who stands to benefit from war, we find that Europe will gain nothing from war.

[Sabra] But Europe massed its forces in the Gulf.

[Khalaf] They all sent symbolic forces. If France sends 5,000 or 10,000 soldiers, so what? The core is the U.S. forces. That is why I am saying that the schism was created over the question of whether to seek a political or a military solution. If the Iraqis contribute more to a political solution, with particular stress on the crux of the crisis—I mean an integrated solution that includes withdrawal and the linking of all issues—and continues to release hostages, they will thus encourage the Europeans to take a stand independent of the Americans. This will trigger American fury and prompt officials in the Bush administration to raise their voices.

Of course, the British stand is identical to the American. However, the stand adopted by countries like France, the Soviet Union, and China is fundamentally different from the American stand. In principle, all stands are similar in calling for a withdrawal from Kuwait and rejecting its annexation. They differ only in their approach. Will they achieve this goal by force, by economic embargo, or by political means? This is the point of difference. The more the Iraqis present positive initiatives, the more this strengthens the hand of the camp which rejects war.

[Sabra] Suppose war breaks out—will Iraq stand fast?

[Khalaf] I am certain that if the United States was confident that it could end the crisis in a single blow, it would have launched a war in the first week. Iraq can

withstand a first strike. This makes the Americans hesitate to strike this blow. I have no detailed information about Iraq's military strength, but I believe the Iraqi leadership is capable of standing fast and is quite prepared to do so. This military strength we are talking about has prompted the Iraqis to evolve their political stands.

At the beginning, there was no political development in the Iraqi stand. However, each visit we make to Iraq further convinces us that Iraqi political life is moving in the direction of a political rather than a military solution.

[Sabra] What was the gist of the Iraqi-French negotiations?

[Khalaf] I have reliable information that thus far there have been no direct Iraqi-French negotiations. However, indirect dialogue is going on through certain parties and channels.

[Sabra] What was behind Iraq's acceptance of the French stand?

[Khalaf] The French spoke of a political rather than a military solution. Moreover, the French spoke about a problem in the Middle East which should be tackled on the same footing as the Gulf problem.

The international community has massed its fleets for the sake of Kuwait and the Gulf; why does it not mass these same fleets for the sake of Palestine? Mitterrand himself expressed this view more than once, as has Prime Minister Rocard. France is convinced that if this military power is transferred to Palestine and if the same measures applied against Iraq are applied against Israel. [sentence incomplete as published] This French view appeals to Iraq.

[Sabra] Frankly, it looks as though the Palestinian side has become Iraq's godfather. The contacts and tours being made by Abu-'Ammar....

[Khalaf] Do you know why we are in Tunis? Because we are not Iraqis, or Syrians, or citizens of any other Arab state. We are Palestinians, from the political and not the regional point of view. From the nationalist point of view we are Arabs. But from the political point of view, we came to Tunis because we are Palestinians. We do not want to act as a cover for any party. We could have reached an understanding with some Arab party to prevent our deportation from the region, but we chose to emigrate to a distant place to preserve our independence and because we refuse to be patronized. We are near and yet so far. We cannot revolve in Iraq's or any other state's orbit.

From the beginning we expressed our views and stated that we opposed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. We are equally opposed to a military strike against Iraq. We know that if the war breaks out it will destroy Iraq's power and we are against the destruction of Iraq's power—not because Iraq protects us under its mantle, but because Iraq is an Arab state. We are against the occupation of Iraq by any foreign force. We are equally against the occupation of any Arab state by a foreign force. A war is bound to destroy Arab power in the region—in the Gulf states and the oil region. Other Arab states may get involved in this war. Even the Syrian stand, as reflected by recent statements, emphasizes that Iraq represents the strategic reserve in our conflict with Israel. Thus, we have to pursue a political solution.

Following the failure of the Cairo summit, the Egyptian media succeeded, regretfully, in misrepresenting our stands. The media did not differentiate between our stand on Kuwait's occupation and our stand toward Iraq as an Arab force that cannot be lost.

The country that wants war most is Israel. Regrettably, there are some Arab countries which are also eager for war, as if it were not clear that the ruler who will take over after the destruction of Iraq would not be an Arab one but an American. Is it in the Arabs' interests for Iraq to be defeated? Some say that Iraq has made a mistake and acted with violence, and that is another issue. If we can tackle this imbalance with an Arab political solution, then why do we not solve this crisis within the Arab framework? We are not biased in favor of Iraq but in favor of the Arab nation so that power remains in our hands and we are not destroyed. We are also biased in favor of the strength of the Iraqi people and the entire Arab people. This is the view of any Arab who is biased in favor of his Arabism.

[Sabra] How can the Arabs contain this situation?

[Khalaf] All these details need to be discussed by a Saudi-Iraqi meeting which would then expand to include other countries.

[Sabra] Something like an Arab summit as urged by Soviet President Gorbachev?

[Khalaf] We made our call before Gorbachev. We have called for a Saudi-Iraqi meeting and then other Arab meetings ultimately resulting in a summit. Discussions about these details now are not acceptable to Iraq, Kuwait, or some Arabs. What we need is a comprehensive solution within an Arab framework so that we can go before the international community and tell it: This is the solution and this is our stand.

[Sabra] We have noticed that to some extent the Gulf crisis has diverted attention from what is taking place within the occupied territories. The most recent example of this was the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre which claimed 35 Palestinian victims but did not get the media coverage it deserved.

[Khalaf] The intifadah is not a passing event. It is an organized mass action and its roots go deep into the land. New events may steal the cameras from it, but these cameras return to it soon because the intifadah is a noble action. The cameras moved away from the occupied

territories when there were those changes in the socialist countries but they soon returned to the territories. The intifadah continues.

Regarding the Jerusalem events, they had their due media coverage. For the first time, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution condemning Israel. We would have preferred the resolution to have been more strongly worded, but in view of the situation in the United Nations and the Security Council, we consider the resolution especially significant because the United States did not veto it. From this premise, we say that the Jerusalem events dragged the Security Council into passing two resolutions in less than two weeks. There is a third resolution coming because Israel rejected the second one. Hence we feel that the massacre received the international attention it deserved—in fact more than we might have expected in view of the Gulf crisis. This shows that a major event cannot be eclipsed by other events. We are confident about the intifadah because the people's morale is high.

[Sabra] But your political role has harmed your ties with certain Arab countries.

[Khalaf] It is natural for certain Arab countries to believe that our position is completely identical with Iraq's because there is a lack of understanding of what a political solution means. These countries, however, have begun to feel the importance of the Palestinian role. Certain Arab countries have gradually begun to contact us.

[Sabra] Such as?

[Khalaf] Meetings took place with [Saudi Foreign Minister] Sa'ud al-Faysal in Rabat. King Hassan has moved closer to a political solution. The Egyptians, although they are still carried away by a military solution and by ugly media campaigns, have not severed their contacts with us. Even the Syrians have not broken off contacts with us—although it is true these contacts are not close. I met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Rabat.

[Sabra] How was the atmosphere at that meeting?

[Khalaf] The meeting came about by chance and was not prearranged, and the atmosphere was generally good. We always try to develop our contacts with the Syrian side.

[Sabra] Before we conclude our discussion of the Gulf crisis, tell me how long the PLO will continue to work only in the political sphere.

[Khalaf] We are not acting only in the political sphere. We do not disregard what is going on in the occupied territories and everything that occurs in the occupied territories comes first. Nor can the PLO ignore the events taking place around it. When we are faced with a major crisis such as the Gulf crisis, in which the fate of the entire region hangs upon whether a decision is made in favor of peace or of war, we cannot stand by or put on blinkers and say we see nothing. This crisis affects our lives on the economic, political, and struggle levels. Not all of us are involved in the Gulf crisis. Only brother Abu 'Ammar, Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], some other brothers, and I myself are involved. The others continue their struggle action. We follow both the situation in the occupied territories and military action and the Gulf crisis.

[Sabra] Let us turn now to Lebanon. I want to ask you about your stand on the statement by U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Edward Djerejian that the Palestinian armed organizations must be dissolved.

[Khalaf] I believe that this statement constitutes clear interference in Syria's internal affairs. He makes it sound as though what happened at B'abda [removal of General 'Awn] was done in agreement with the United States and consequently will be applied to the Palestinians and other militias elsewhere in Lebanon. This statement is an insult to Syria. It sounds as if he were telling the Israelis not to worry about the steps that have been taken in Lebanon because we Palestinians are the price, and the Syrian presence and the legitimate Lebanese Government will be entrenched at the expense of the Palestinians. This is designed to provoke the Palestinians to clash with the legitimate Lebanese Goverment and the Syrians. This statement sought to kill more than one bird with one stone. I stress that this statement is flagrant interference in Arab, Syrian, and Lebanese affairs. The Americans have always been secretive in implementing their schemes, but this statment has unmasked them.

[Sabra] Minister Walid Junblatt has made a statement asking in effect how the Palestinians can surrender their weapons when they have to protect themselves from repeats of the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

[Khalaf] There are two principles which we cannot infringe upon; namely Lebanon's unity and the imposition of Lebanese legitimacy throughout Lebanese territory. The Palestinian leadership does not dispute these principles. But when it comes to the principle of implementation, we have a long experience in Lebanon. The most important point in this experience is the security of the Palestinians and the camps. We need to discuss with Lebanese Government how these camps can be made adequately secure so that Israel cannot penetrate them to attack and kill our people or send Israeli-supported elements to commit massacres against our people.

If the Lebanese state does not want a tragedy to take place in the south—a Palestinian-Lebanese tragedy or a Palestinian-Lebanese war, that is a war with the legitimacte government—then it must move toward a dialogue with us. We are fully prepared for this dialogue. However, ignoring the Palestinian stand and imposing orders on it from above such as repealing the Cairo agreement and making statements that there is no agreement with the Palestinians and the law must be applied to them is nothing but provocative and empty talk if it is not accompanied by a dialogue with the Lebanese state. With this dialogue we must reach an agreement, particularly as we are declaring that we are adhering to the first two main principles; namely Lebanon's unity and the imposition of legitimacy throughout Lebanese territory.

If a dialogue with Syria facilitates our dialogue with Lebanon, or if there is a joint dialogue, then we are ready for this joint dialogue because we are not going to be responsible for a new Sabra and Shatila massacre.

[Sabra] How then do you see the Palestinian situation in light of the new developments in the Lebanese arena?

[Khalaf] We are not against the return of legitimacy; we are demanding a dialogue with it. The Lebanese legitimacy showed its irritation when there were no congratulations following the election of Rene Mu'awwad as president of the republic, even though on my own initiative I congratulated Mu'awwad, may God have mercy on his soul, and I also congratulated President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Presidents al-Hirawi and Abu 'Ammar met during the Cairo summit. We agreed that we support legitimacy and the imposition of its authority over all Lebanese territory and also to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian leadership.

[Sabra] There is talk that the Palestinians will soon reestablish a diplomatic presence in Damascus.

[Khalaf] How?

[Sabra] A Palestinian embassy in Damascus.

[Khalaf] We were not against a dialogue with Damascus to reach an agreement, but the truth is that I do not see that matters are moving in that direction. As I have said, however, we are very eager for a dialogue with Syria and the restoration of relations, even if gradually, because this would facilitate matters in Lebanon. The closeness of Syrian-Lebanese relations is no secret, and so any meeting with Syria facilitates the meeting with the Lebanese legitimacy.

This is why we say that if relations and dialogue with the legitimate Lebanese Government are undertaken with the support of the brothers in Syria, then they will be successful, pragmatic, and objective talks. This is important to prevent any problems for Lebanese legitimacy in the south.

[Sabra] What are the causes of the dispute between Fatah and the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon?

[Khalaf] As you know, alliances in Lebanon change with amazing speed. Relations in Lebanon are like quicksand, and there is no such thing as a long-term alliance. For example, we respect and esteem Minister Walid Junblatt, but there are many verbal battles between us and differences in views are reflected in statements. The dispute with [Nasirite leader] Mustafa Sa'd is "lighter" than the one with Walid Junblatt. Frankly, disputes do exist because there is no lasting friendship or lasting enmity in Lebanon.

[Sabra] What are the causes of the dispute with the Nasirite Popular Organization?

[Khalaf] When two persons quarrel, this leads to a clash between their organizations. The majority of clashes in Lebanon began after a fight between two thugs.

[Sabra] But there may be more here than meets the eye—clashes between two organizations do so take place just because of a dispute between two fighters. The dispute could be the spark that ignites something that had been kept under wraps.

[Khalaf] The dispute could be the spark. I suffered a lot from these clashes when I was in Beirut. They might start over small things and escalate into clashes in the streets. When these clashes take place at a time of political dispute, then reconciliation takes longer. In Lebanon, everyone expresses his view through the gun.

[Sabra] It has been said that the dispute between you and the Nasirite Popular Organization is over the latter's rapprochement with Hizballah.

[Khalaf] Before the saga of 'Awn and the imposition of legitimacy, we were moving toward a dialogue with Hizballah in south Lebanon. By the way, Mustafa Sa'd is the person with whom we have the fewest differences. The essence of our relationship with him is good. We accept his arbitration in any decision we adopt because he never once harmed the Palestinian people. Walid Junblatt attacked us in the past and we bore his attacks and did not reply. Mustafa Sa'd never attacked us. Sometimes, once a year, he may be annoyed or pained by a situation and make a statement which is nothing more than an outburst.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Gulf Crisis, Domestic Issues

JN1511184990 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 3, 4

[Interview with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by Chief Editor Anis Mansur in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] Mr. President, how are our relations with Libya?

[Mubarak] Good.

[Mansur] And with Sudan?

[Mubarak] I was very surprised at what Lieutenant General al-Bashir said to the Sudanese community in New York that Egypt has become accustomed to have satellite governments in Sudan. Sudanese governments have never been our satellite at any time. However, we get used to such slander.

[Mansur] And with the PLO?

[Mubarak] We remain silent. We will not say anything and we will not reply. Egypt has been and continues to be the state adopting the Palestinian cause. No matter what is being said against us, we will not get into irresponsible arguments with them. There is nothing now between us and them.

[Mansur] Mr. President, a question on our domestic affairs. Why do we cling to the public sector while the Soviet Union, which invented it, has abandoned it? All the communist countries have also abandoned it out of a belief that it is corrupt, not to mention that the philosophy producing it has also become bankrupt. We in Egypt have become certain that it is a burden and a bad type of management.

[Mubarak] I believe that the Soviet Union has been hasty in carrying out changes. It will face many difficulties. Difficulties have already emerged. Some say that the Soviet Union was hasty while others say it has been slow. However, the speed with which these changes are taking place has shaken everything vigorously. I do not want to rush into an assessment of the public sector or abandon some of its failing institutions. On the other hand, there are huge institutions that are making substantial profits like the iron, steel, and the aluminum sector and the big factories in al-Mahallah al-Kubra. I still believe we should tackle these vital and serious matters with great care. We must make accurate calculations because society is in no position to withstand an upheaval that we might regret later.

[Mansur] Mr. President, there is much contradictory talk in the U.S. and European media. They cast doubt on what they said yesterday and object to it the next day. Will we witness a war?

[Mubarak] I am afraid that Saddam Husayn is not fully aware of the huge forces which are in the Gulf with their very sophisticated weapons. I am afraid that some people have convinced him that these forces are not that formidable and cannot hurt him. Saddam has never been a military man. He is a victim of those surrounding him who underestimate everything. I believe that war can take place at any time. I cannot imagine the disaster it will bring about. I still hope that the day will not come.

[Mansur] Mr. President, Saddam threatens that he will strike at Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Can he do it, and if so, how?

[Mubarak] It is strange. They have told him that the Egyptian people support him. Is striking at the Egyptian people the reward he gives them for this support? I do not know what he will strike at them with. As far as I know, Iraq does not possess missiles capable of reaching any point in Egypt. But if he intends to strike at the Egyptian leadership, this leadership was chosen by the people. There is no difference between the leadership and the people. When the leadership feels that it no longer enjoys the support of the people, it must step down. If he attacks us, it is only natural that we not remain silent.

[Mansur] Mr. President, do you believe that Saddam Husayn would strike at Israel, and thus expand the theater of military operations? If he were to strike at Israel, we would either stand on his side against Israel or maintain a neutral position. What can be done if Saddam were to decide at a specific point in time during combat to attack Israel or Syria?

[Mubarak] By God, I advise President Saddam to stop meaningless threats that fall within the category of "bluffing." We, Saddam, and Israel know that he does not mean what he says. When he threatened to strike at Israel and to burn half of Israel, a quarter of it or the whole of Israel, Israel was extremely happy. This prompted the Jewish organizations in the United States to cry for help and say: They will attack us. Save us. Help us. Give us weapons. Consequently, Israel obtained money and very sophisticated weapons for free. With these manifestations of bluffing, President Saddam did Israel a big favor. He does not mean to pose threats, attack, or burn. They depicted him as a man to be taken seriously and said that Israel was in jeopardy. As a result, Israel became stronger. All that Saddam has gained is nothing but growing hostility from the entire world.

President Saddam reminds us of our own situation in 1967 when we threatened and warned Israel, and said that we would attack Israel and throw it into the sea. The end result is well-known: certain military defeat.

President Saddam is well aware that presidents have to weigh and choose their words carefully and meticulously. Hence, he has to exercise caution and care when he makes statements or declarations. He has to weigh losses against profits. He must have in mind possible reactions. Before anything else, he must know the good and bad

outcome of the statements that he makes, their impact on our countries. The statements of presidents should reflect a sense of the grave responsibility that they shoulder, because their statements affect them as well as their people.

[Mansur] Mr. President, if Saddam Husayn were to ask you to mediate with the Americans and the Western countries, and say that he is ready to withdraw from Kuwait, would you accept such a request despite all that he has said against you and against Egypt?

[Mubarak] I would forget the humiliating slander and obscenities coming from Baghdad. You might remember the soldier whom we saw in Hafr al-Batin, how he became nervous and indignant because of the cheap words aired by Baghdad radio. This youth said to me: Mr. President, give us orders to engage in combat and we will show him how battles are fought. This youth became very emotional because of the obscenities aired by Baghdad radio. However, if Saddam were to make such a request, I would forget all this. I am ready to make secret and public efforts with the Americans and the European states in this regard. I would be ready to shuttle among capitals.

[Mansur] If Saddam Husayn were to ask that his forces not be attacked by the allied troops during withdrawal, would this be viewed as a condition, considering that the United Nations said that withdrawal should be unconditional?

[Mubarak] If the withdrawal from Kuwait were to be complete, this would be enough. We would make sure that his forces would not be attacked during withdrawal. Our wish is to see him agree to such an arrangement. The whole world is demanding this withdrawal. We are asking him to withdraw. If he were to withdraw his troops, it would be in response to the requests and appeals of all leaders and billions who do not want to see devastation and blood. He should feel no shame were he to decide to withdraw. He withdrew his troops from Iranian territory after an eight-year war in which he lost millions of people killed and wounded as well as billions of dollars. When he did this, he did not feel ashamed. We were all happy to see this war end. We would be happier if the Kuwait crisis were to end with a withdrawal that would gladden millions of people. Once this happens, we would negotiate, listen to his grievances, and help him.

The only thing of which I am sure is that President Saddam does not have a clear picture of the military buildup in the region. King Husayn said that President Saddam initially intended to occupy the disputed al-Rumaylah area and that he was planning to be content with this. However, at the last minute, he decided to devour Kuwait; and who knows what comes next. I personally believe that his advisers told him: Never mind. This is no big thing. No one will object. No one will pay attention because the world is immersed in the political and economic problems of Europe. As for the Middle East, it is no longer the focus of attention. Somebody must have told him that the thing was very easy to manage.

However, as a military man and one who follows events and has connections with all world leaders, my opinion was and still is that the situation, as I see and hear it, is very serious. The entire world is against Saddam Husayn. Is not this clear to everyone? I believe Saddam Husayn does not see or hear well. Therefore, he does not have a logical assessment of the situation. I see nothing but destruction, waste, and blood. The picture is full of smoke, flames, blood, cries, hunger, and the collapse of every material, psychological, social, political, and economic value. What I said publicly and to others about him is not secret anymore. How many times I told him: Withdraw, and we will station disengagement Arab forces between you and Kuwait? How many times I told him: Respond to our appeal and our request and withdraw, and we will help you? However, as you see, he did not hear and is not ready for any of that.

[Mansur] It is known now that the Americans will launch missile strikes at Iraq from the air and sea. The targets are known. These are military installations everywhere. However, after the intensive fire, after Iraqi radars are jammed and all its weapons misguided with the use of electronic means, ground forces must advance toward Iraq to help achieve stability. If the Americans ask Egypt to march its forces as peace forces, will you, Your Excellency the President, agree?

[Mubarak] No, we have no business with Iraq. But if we are to enter Kuwait as peace forces, I have no objection at all. In fact this is natural, although I would not like such a day to come. I want everything to occur peacefully. We have all experienced war. President Saddam himself experienced war with Iran and he must have seen and learned about the magnitude of destruction and the number of people killed and wounded in his country and in Iran. How can he want to repeat that in an Arab country and against an Arab people? How can he want to devastate what remains of the Iraqi people once again, when all he has to do is just take his weapons away and avert the bloodshed?

My utmost hope is that President Saddam will think for even one minute about the magnitude of the forces allied against him in the Gulf. They are enormous, formidable. The Americans alone will number 450,000, and perhaps more later on. I estimate the firepower in this region will be about 9,000 to 10,000 shots per day. Imagine, or rather let President Saddam imagine and calculate the extent of destruction that will be inflicted on his soldiers and people. I am not saying this in favor of anybody, but in his favor and in favor of the fraternal Iraqi people and all Arab peoples. What will this region look like after this widespread destruction?

[Mansur] Britain resumed relations with Iran, but has not resumed them with Syria. It has been said that Egypt is mediating. To what extent has this mediation been

successful? Does Britain continue to insist that Syria renounce terrorism, which it supports as it has often acknowledged, especially after the attempt to bomb a plane at London airport?

[Mubarak] We are trying with the Americans and the English, and we hope that God will grant us success. The American papers have a very strong "nose." Therefore, they occasionally reveal what is going on between London and Damascus. However, we should know that American papers are not controlled by the government, which they can attack. They also attack the Congress. You should not blame the U.S. Government for the papers' attempts to sow discord between states or governments or leaders. This also applies to the British press, which is also absolutely free and not controlled by the state. However, we pray that we will overcome the obstacles on the path toward a solution.

[Mansur] Your Excellency the President: Questions have been raised about the American position prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. People are asking: How was it that with all the monitoring, spying, and intelligence services that had spotted the Iraqi concentrations at the border at its disposal, the United States failed to anticipate the invasion? They are as much as saying that for some reason or other, the United States let Saddam take over Kuwait. I took up the point with the deputy commander of the U.S. Navy at American Ambassador Frank Wisner's home, as I did with the U.S. secretary of the air force. Both agreed that they had known of the Iraqi buildup, but they did not think it was meant for Kuwait. They also were reassured by their regional friendly heads of state and kings who, asked if Saddam intended to invade, replied that they had had the Iraqi leader's assurance that this was not his intention. The American officials further said that the decision to invade was in Saddam's mind, and there was no way satellites can detect that. Just as happened in 1973. We had concentrations but the satellites could not possibly anticipate the decision to go to war on 6 October. What do you think, Mr. President?

[Mubarak] I quite agree. I had asked Saddam and he denied and took umbrage. I had asked him more than once. He answered that he was not so mad as to invade.

[Mansur] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan's published statements were something of a bombshell. We construed them as a shift in the Saudi position on the Gulf crisis and UN Security Council resolutions. The United States tried to swallow the statement pending the arrival of Secretary Baker in the region to hear it from the Saudis. In his statement, Prince Sultan said: I do not mind Iraq being ceded a portion of Kuwaiti territory and given an outlet on the Gulf, if that is the price of peace. We interpreted these statements as a reward to the aggressor—something like territory for peace, or the Balfour Declaration whereby one who does not own gives one who does not merit.

[Mubarak] I heard the statement which was misunderstood. Saudi Arabia has not changed its stance. They are against the invasion and for unconditional withdrawal—something they have made plain over and over.

[Mansur] What do you think Iraq will be like in the post-Saddam era, or is it a premature question?

[Mubarak] I cannot and will not speculate on that. I can only imagine the scale of devastation that will follow if Saddam does not pull out and the option of war is pursued.

[Mansur] How do you see the picture of post-war security in the Gulf? Will it be an issue of protecting Arab from Arab or will it be Arabs versus Iranians, or indeed Israelis? Will it be handled by the Arab league, or by some outside body? Will the Gulf security be a pan-Gulf or pan-Arab concern?

[Mubarak] The Arabs will have to work out a security system among themselves if it is to last. We have more than our share of problems. The Arabs must be a united force to tackle crises. If an Arab country should ask Egypt to act on its behalf, we are available. The Arab states may find it necessary to ally themselves with Iran in a new order to avert a disturbance of Arab security in the Gulf. There is a hard lesson to be learned, and we learn only at a costly price, or we do not learn anything at all.

[Mansur] I will ask this question by way of amusement, something you sorely need, Mr. President. Have you seen the film "The Man Who Saw the Future" about the life of the French soothsayer Nostradamus, who lived and died in the 16th century? He foretold 1,000 events, half of which have thus far materialized. The Americans produced a movie about him with Orson Welles playing the narrator. The film tells of many predictions that have come to pass in Europe, including the advent of Napoleon, Hitler, and Franco, as well as such inventions as airplanes, submarines, and spaceships that put a man on the moon. This fortune teller predicted that global peace would reign for 1,000 years after detente between the superpowers. More importantly, he predicted that 1992 would see a Muslim leader on the border with Iran ignite World War III, whose devastating effects would leave their mark for 27 years, and that the devastation would reduce the new Babylon—Baghdad that is—to rubble...! The film shows fire coming from the earth and the sky and total destruction wrought by this Arab leader! I have the film which I will send for you to watch.

[Mubarak] Thanks, I do want to see it. I would not want to see this day—Neither in reality nor in fiction.

Mubarak Returns From Damascus, Issues Statements

NC1511174590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening after a two-day visit to Damascus, during which he held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

On Arab Alliance, Gulf, Hostages

NC1511185790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today reiterated Egypt's willingness to contribute to any peaceful solution to the current Gulf crisis.

Following his return to Cairo from Damascus, President Mubarak, when asked this afternoon about the rejection of an Arab summit and what Arab solution could now be proposed, said: I do not have a bunch of solutions in my pocket. If anyone has an idea for a solution, then we are ready to help in an effort to hopefully reach a peaceful solution.

President Mubarak stressed that definitely no one wants war. He said: We are looking for a peaceful solution, but they [word indistinct] eveything and laid down conditions. The entire world will reject these conditions.

Asked about Libya's stand, the president said that Libya's stand has not changed.

Asked whether Libya rejected the Arab summit proposed by Moroccan King Hassan II, President Mubarak asked in reply: Has Libya issued a statement rejecting the summit? He added that if the summit had been useful, then all would have agreed to it.

Asked what would keep the Arab alliance cohesive in the coming months, President Mubarak said: The issue is still the same and the situation has not changed. Therefore, the alliance will not change.

Asked whether some people in the United States feel that some members of the Arab alliance will abandon the United States after everything has been cleared up and whether there are guarantees that others in the Arab alliance will stand behind the United States, President Mubarak said: We support the right course, the right idea, and the correct concept which is the complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. This is what the Arabs and the Arab alliance support.

President Mubarak then answered a question on whether there is any information about the possible release of Western hostages in Lebanon in light of the role that Syria could play and whether he discussed this with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The president said: The Syrians are doing all they can to release the hostages in Lebanon. Noting the issue is not that easy, he added: According to my information, they are doing all they can.

On Military Option, Security

NC1511192090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stressed that he is making every possible effort to reach a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis to avoid war which he said would be destructive and would open "the doors of hell."

President Mubarak said that he asked U.S. President George Bush and stressed to Secretary of State James Baker the need to (?postpone) the military option, which the United States wants to exercise under the UN umbrella, for three months to give the Iraqi president a chance to reconsider his stand and avoid the destructive war.

In statements to Egyptian editors in chief who accompanied him on the plane, the president said that Soviet and Chinese stands do not reject the military option but agree with us on the need to exhaust all the means for a solution based on the complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Kuwaiti territories and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

President Mubarak stressed that if Saddam Husayn withdraws his forces from Kuwait, Egypt would be ready to assist in negotiations for reaching solutions satisfactory to all parties. But President Mubarak stressed that negotiations cannot be undertaken until after the unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

President Mubarak also stressed that the security arrangements for the Gulf region after the resolution of the current crisis must stem from the Arab countries alone, without the interference of foreign forces.

On Saddam's Aborting Arab Summit

NC1511175490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said that Saddam Husayn aborted the call by Moroccan King Hassan II to hold an Arab summit in Morocco to resolve the Gulf crisis. He said that the impossible conditions put forward by Iraq have blocked the way to any Arab attempt by the proposed summit.

Mubarak Receives Soviet Envoy Belonogov in Cairo

NC1611102290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov.

The Soviet envoy arrived in Cairo yesterday from Sanaa on a tour of a number of Arab countries to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Meets Envoy

NC1611123190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today conferred with Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, who is currently visiting Egypt. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf region and avoiding the military option.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister met yesterday with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. During the meeting al-Baz stressed that Egypt's position on the Gulf crisis calls for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait, and Iraq's compliance with international unanimity in this respect, so that the region might be spared the perils of war.

Paper Views Mubarak's Diplomatic Efforts in Gulf

NC1611093190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Writing under the title: "Sincere Efforts To Remove the Specter of War", AL-AKHBAR says that this week's summit meetings between President Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Surt, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, which follow President Mubarak's earlier visits to Saudi Arabia and four other Gulf states, underscore his eagerness to exert the utmost efforts to maintain peace in the region.

The paper notes that President Mubarak continues to exert relentless diplomatic efforts with U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, and other world leaders to remain patient just in case the miracle happens and the Baghdad ruler sobers up and returns to reason.

The paper stresses that Egypt does not want under any circumstances to raise its arms, which serve as an Arab shield, in the face of any Arab army unless it or others are subjected to an outright aggression.

The paper points out that the dispatch of Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia to assist in defending it against any aggression is not a hostile act against Iraq, its people, or even its president. It is rather to uphold a principle that Egypt has maintained throughout its history, namely not to intervene in any country's affairs, to uphold legitimacy, and to stand up to any aggression, particularly if it is directed against a fraternal Arab country. This applies even if the aggressor is a fellow Arab, for this makes the aggression meaner and even more abominable.

'Rush' To Release Hostages Portends Imminent War

JN1611114490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "A Race for Hostages"]

[Text] The anti-Saddam allies have been making strenuous efforts to secure the release of their hostages who are being held captive in Iraq. As for key figures and personalities, they have been pouring into Baghdad to meet with the leader who is unparalleled in media demonstrations—in which the unequaled leader shows that he is to be thanked for releasing their nationals in exchange for nothing. The objective is to make them and the world realize that he is a powerful and mighty figure to be reckoned with.

After some small countries managed to obtain the release of their nationals from Babylonian captivity, the big powers had the nerve to cross the red line separating pride and whimsical behavior. France's success in securing the release of its nationals, thanks to the wisdom of President Mitterrand and his initiative, was an incentive that prompted the other big powers to sit this test without any fears of possible failure or rejection. That is why they have chosen "key envoys" whose requests cannot easily be rejected. Edward Heath went for Britain, and Nakasone for Japan—both of them are former prime ministers. As for former Chancellor Willy Brandt, he represented Germany. Besides, he is the leader of Socialist International. Of late, the PRC foreign minister has gone to Baghdad. Before him Primakov, the Soviet Communist Politburo member and President Gorbachev's envoy, arrived in Baghdad. Some of these envoys had only the issue of their nationals on their minds. Some others used a political cover for their visits. However, the issue of their nationals was their prime concern. These visits have proven to be fruitful. After obtaining the release of their nationals, these envoys have confirmed in carefully chosen statements their support for the UN Security Council resolutions. Likewise, they said that there are peace prospects that had emerged as a result of a shift in Saddam's position. What is important about this is that these visits managed to secure the release of all, most, or at least some of the hostages.

It is to be recalled that the European states in particular hastened to send envoys to Baghdad for this purpose despite the fact that the EEC passed two resolutions banning unilateral efforts by any EEC member state to secure the release of its hostages.

This unprecedented rush by the countries concerned to get their nationals out of Iraq and Kuwait can be interpreted to mean that there is an awareness on their part that "something is going to happen". That is, these countries have taken into consideration the possible imminent eruption of war. In their estimates of the situation, they might have reached the conclusion that fighting is inevitable. That is why they are making efforts to obtain the release of their nationals held captive there without fearing that they might be blamed for making unilateral efforts or violating EEC resolutions. The rationale behind this is that the lives of their sons outweigh any possible embarrassment.

Commentary Says Arab Solution 'Top Priority'

NC1511224390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The International Community Realizes the Great Responsibility of War; Does the Iraqi President Realize It?"

[Excerpts] Efforts have intensified recently to resolve the Gulf crisis by peaceful means. These regional and international efforts are comprehensive and linked, and their main objective is to prepare the atmosphere for an Arab solution to the crisis. Before dealing with these efforts and moves, we must spell out some important facts. The first fact is that the Arab states and people want the solution to be purely Arab and not foreign-imposed. The second fact is that the main element of a solution, from both the Arab and international viewpoints, is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in implementation of Arab and UN resolutions. [passage omitted] The third fact is the one which President Mubarak has stated in his comments on the calls for an Arab solution. We mean that an Arab solution and any other solution of the crisis depend primarily on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's readiness to meet a primary and basic condition, which is his acceptance of the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait without conditions. [passage omitted]

We stress that an Arab solution of the Gulf crisis has top priority until all means for such a solution are exhausted. We say this not because the international community is afraid of the possibility of defeat in a war with Iraq—this would be a naive idea—but because it realizes the horrible and dire consequences of such a war. It is the international community's sense of responsibility and its realization of the depth of the historic development the world is witnessing. The essence of this development is rejecting the settlement of differences and conflicts by force.

It remains for the Iraqi president to appeciate all this and to realize that the responsibility of war and its dire consequences for the Iraqi people, the Arab people, and all the people of the world will be his alone.

Al-Baz Views Diminishing Prospects for Solution

NC1511172390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis is clear. Egypt believes that the prospects for a peaceful solution of the crisis are diminishing every day because of Iraq's intransigence and its noncompliance with the international consensus calling for its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Dr. al-Baz stated this following his talks with Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet presidential envoy and deputy foreign minister.

The Soviet envoy arrived in Cairo this morning on a one-day visit as part of a tour of the region.

Efforts To Find Peaceful Gulf Solution Examined

NC1011204290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "Efforts Continue To Find a Peaceful Solution to the Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Extensive Arab and international efforts continue to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis so as to avert a resort to force that would expose the region and the world to a destructive war. The current meeting in Damascus among the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—their second meeting in two weeks—is at the fore of these efforts. The meeting demonstrates these countries' deep interest in this issue and their serious search for a solution through coordinating their positions on all developments in this crisis.

These countries have identical views on a solution. They maintain that the presence of the Syrian and Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia is aimed at safeguarding Saudi Arabia from any danger and at deterring Iraq from attacking this country. Both Egypt and Syria are prepared to reinforce their troops if Saudi Arabia so requests. The three countries emphasize their credibility in seeking a peaceful solution. They do not favor a military option and call for patience and for allowing more time for a peaceful solution to succeed. At the same time, these countries demand that Iraq comply with the international demand for its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legtimate government to Kuwait, rejecting any bargaining or compromise over this issue.

Such efforts are not confined to the Arabs. Several international powers are exerting similar efforts. The U.S. secretary of state and the PRC foreign minister toured the countries of the region and other capitals. The U.S. secretary of state visited Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, the Soviet Union, and France. The PRC foreign minister visited Egypt and Jordan and plans to go on to visit Baghdad. True, reports indicated that Baker's mission was primarily aimed at preparing for a military option, given the fact that the Soviet Union declared that it was not opposed to the use of force to compel Iraq to implement the UN resolutions, and the PRC foreign minister's comment that his country will not veto a Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

However, several statements by U.S. officials, especially President Bush, show a preference for avoiding a resort to the military option. True, the United States is preparing to send reinforcements to the Gulf in a climate of widespread support for the U.S. move. The French foreign minister has stated that there are no differences between Washington and Paris in their approaches to the Gulf crisis, thereby implicitly indicating that France supports any U.S. step, including a military one. However, after their talks in Paris today the U.S. secretary of state and the French foreign minister stressed the need to exert every effort to find a peaceful solution. When we also consider the proposals for a peaceful solution being submitted to the United Nations, we can say that the whole world genuinely desires to avoid the use of force to compel Iraq to comply with the international will. This is a result of the recognition that the military option would

have catastrophic consequences not only for Iraq and its people, but also for the countries of the region and perhaps the whole world.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Talks With 'Arafat

LD1511202190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Today the brother leader of the revolution received Palestinian president brother Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived this afternoon in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Supports Arab League Move to Cairo

NC1511195390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has reiterated Libya's commitment to the decision to return the Arab League [AL] to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. He also reiterated his rejection of any attempt to depart from that decision or to violate the AL Charter, which stipulates that Cairo be the permanent AL headquarters.

MENA has also learned that Col. al-Qadhdhafi believes that the AL secretary general must be Egyptian, as has been the practice since the AL was established and until it was temporarily moved to Tunis.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi visited Libya the day before yesterday. He carried a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, requesting Col. al-Qadhdhafi to support the Iraqi stand on the transfer of the AL headquarters. Iraq demands that the AL remain in Tunis and not be transferred to Cairo.

MENA has learned that Col. al-Qadhdhafi was careful to let Sa'dun Hammadi depart Libya before President Mubarak's arrival and after the Libyan stand on the matter had been clearly defined.

JANA Cites VOA on Libyan Role in Gulf

LD1411193190 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Washington, al Harth 14 [November], Jamahiriyah News Agency—The Voice of America (VOA) radio said that Libya is gaining an increasing importance in tackling the Kuwait crisis and that it has good relations with the Arab countries which were divided by the crisis into two groups.

The radio, in a special news report from its correspondent in Cairo, said yesterday that Great Jamahiriyah was considered one of the Arab countries which rejected the foreign military presence in the Arab Gulf region clearly and demanded Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait so that the Arabs can demand the foreign troops be pulled out of the region. The radio asserted that such insistance had made Great Jamahiriyah a joining link between the two Arab groupings.

Friendship Agreement With Tajikistan Signed

LD1411173790 Tripoli JANA in English 1653 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, November 14, JANA—Signing took place this morning at the People's Hall in Tripoli on a protocol agreement between the Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship Society and the delegation from the Soviet-Libyan Arab Friendship Society from the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan in the presence of the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and the minister of economy and provision in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The protocol agreement included the exchange of delegation and promoting the cultural and ideological dialogue between the two sides and strengthening the tourist and youth activities.

It also included the promotion of informational cooperation between the two sides, caring and underlining the occasions and the celebrations of both sides and their coordination to twin the city of Tripoli with Dushanbe city. [sentence as received]

Following the signing of the protocol the assistant secretary gave a speech greeting the Soviet delegation headed by the minister of economy and provision in the Republic of Tajikistan. He pointed out that the signing of this protocol of this two friendship was considered a good opportunity to open the bridges of cooperation with the Tajik people. He asserted that the Libyan Arab people was keen to establish amicable relations with the Tajik people.

The minister of economy and provision in the republic of Tajikistan and the head of the Soviet delegation gave a speech praising the good relations binding the people of Tajikistan with the Libyan Arab people. He pointed out that the signing of this protocol was considered a confirmation to the dictum "the constant relations are among nations and not against government."

The Soviet minister also praised the giant cultural accomplishment realized on the land of Great Jamahiriiya - thanks to the great al-Fateh revolution. He said we and our accompanying delegation will exert our utmost efforts to tell the people of Tajikistan about this achievements.

Mauritania

Iraq's Hammadi Meets President Taya

JN1511170190 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Nouakchott, Nov. 15, INA—Col. Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, president of the Republic of Mauritania received envoy of President Saddam Husayn, member of the Revolution Command Council and Deputy Premier Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi.

Envoy of the president conveyed during the meeting here yesterday night a message from President Husayn to Col. Taya dealing with bilateral relations and developments of the situation in the Gulf region and the Arab Peninsula and dangers of American and Western schemes against security, independence and sovereignty of the Arab nation.

Dr. Hammadi conveyed to the Mauritanian president greetings of President Saddam Husayn and the people of Iraq to Mauritanian Government and people for the genuine pan-Arab attitudes.

The meeting was attended by the Mauritanian permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Messers Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and Iraqi ambassador to Mauritania.

Comments at End of Visit

AB1511170890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command and Iraqi deputy prime minister, left Nouakchott this morning after a visit to our country. He was received by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state. The Iraqi official was seen off by a delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould Ndiayane, permanent secretary of the CMSN. Others included Toe Adama Samba, minister of justice; Guidi Ould Bounam, minister of culture and Islamic orientation; Rachid Ould Saleh, secretary of state for literacy and traditional education; Moustapha Mohamadou, adviser at the CMSN Presidency.

A few minutes before his departure, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi made a statement to the press. He expressed his joy at visiting Mauritania, a sister Arab country. He said he was the bearer of a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother, Col. Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. The message, he said, concerned relations between the two sister countries and the current situation in the Arab world. He added that he had explained the content of the message to the head of state and extended to him President Saddam Husayn's greetings. Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi also stressed that he had briefed the head of state on the situation in Iraq, which he described as good and solid in the political, economic, and military fields.

He informed the Mauritanian head of state that Iraq wants peace and has faith in the peaceful solution of the current problems in the Gulf region, but it is also determined to defend its independence, he stressed. Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi further said that he explained to the head of state Iraq's viewpoint on the international situation concerning solutions to the crisis and Arab relations in particular. He then noted that his audience with the head of state was cordial and expressed satisfaction with the reception and hospitality accorded him. This corresponds, he said, to the secular relations of brotherhood between the two countries.

Sudan

Junta Arrests Three Al-Mahdi Cabinet Members

NC1511164690 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 15 (AFP)—Sudan's military junta has arrested three former members of governments led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister it overthrew nearly 17 months ago, several separate sources reached from the Egyptian capital said Thursday.

Exiled Sudanese former politicians have also reported this week violent and open anti-government protests in several provincial towns in Sudan, including 'Atbarah, Umm Ruwabah, Kassala, Sannar, Wad Madani and al-Qadarif.

Military patrols in the capital Khartoum have been stepped up, these sources said, in the week following a rail workers' strike that paralysed Sudan for five days.

Those arrested, reportedly on Monday, were members of Mr. Mahdi's al-'Ummah Party, banned like all other parties by the junta which seized power on June 30, 1989, sources said.

They were former finance minister 'Umar Nur al-Dayim, former mines and energy minister Bakri Ahmad 'Udayl and former minister for cabinet affairs Salah-al-Din 'Abd al-Salam Khalifah.

Cairo newspaper Al-Wafd meanwhile reported that the former deputy secretary-general of the Sudanese Communist Party, Babakir al-Tijani al-Tayyib, had managed to leave Sudan for Ethiopia.

He was among those rounded up with most other leading politicians after last year's coup and later freed from jail but put under house arrest and forbidden from leaving the country.

Report of Saudi Pilot Defection Denied

NC1511134990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Nov (MENA)—A reliable Sudanese source has denied reports that a Saudi F-15 pilot has taken refuge in Sudan and that he has been granted political asylum in Sudan.

Speaking to reporters today, the source described the report as completely groundless.

The Sudanese newspaper AL-MASIRAH, a weekly of limited circulation and the mouthpiece of the Sudanese Students Union, yesterday published a report that a Saudi pilot had landed in the "Wadi Sayyidna" airport in Omdurman and requested asylum in protest of what the paper termed as the foreign forces' presence in Saudi Arabia.

Tunisia

Iraqi Envoy Urges Consultations Prior To Summit

JN1511172790 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1320 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 15 Nov (INA)—Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi, Iraq's ambassador in Tunis, has declared that no Arab summit will succeed if no deep and earnest consultations are held in advance among the concerned parties. In a statement to the Tunisian paper AS-SABAH published today, al-Juburi said that the proposed Arab summit in Rabat is aimed at discussing the so-called Gulf crisis. Therefore, prior consultations with Iraq are necessary, as Iraq is concerned with the matter.

The Iraqi ambassador said that any Arab summit should adopt positive resolutions that serve the interests of the Arab nation and cancel the resolutions of the ill-reputed Cairo summit, which legitimized the presence of foreign forces in the Arabian Gulf.

He noted that Iraq does not want the proposed Arab summit to turn into another opportunity to give legitimacy to aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Bahrain

Amir Departs for Private Visit 'Abroad'

JN1211100690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Manama, 12 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Hamad Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, left Manama for abroad this morning on a private visit. [passage omitted]

His highness the amir of Bahrain issued an amiri decree entrusting His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the defense force, with carrying out the tasks of leadership during his highness' absence abroad.

Prime Minister Leaves for London on Private Visit

JN1411112090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0725 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, left Manama for London this morning on a private visit to the United Kingdom. His highness was seen off by acting Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, senior ruling family members, ministers, and senior civilian and military officials.

Canadian Defense Minister Arrives for Gulf Talks

JN1511182690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 15 Nov (WAKH)—Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight arrived in Manama this evening on a visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

During his visit to Bahrain, the Canadian minister will hold talks on current Gulf developments, the enhancement of bilateral ties, and a number of issues of common interest.

The Canadian minister was welcomed upon arrival by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, and Canadian Ambassador to Bahrain Thomas Dickinson.

Kuwait

Government Opposes Emergency Arab Summit

LD1511140190 London KUNA in Arabic 1331 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [dateline indistinct]—Kuwait today announced its rejection of the Moroccan call for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to try to resolve the crisis brought about by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on 2 August. This came in a statement made by the Kuwaiti acting information minister, Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, to KUNA.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said that Kuwait cannot see any usefulness in the convening of a summit in view of Iraq's continued refusal to implement international, Islamic, and Arab resolutions which call for an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and the enabling of the legitimate authority to exercise its constitutional duties. [passage omitted]

Nationals, Others Take Part in Airport Operations

JN1511163690 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by Nida' Salman]

[Text] Kazimah Airport (formerly Kuwait Airport) has begun to extend services to Iraqi Airways passengers.

Airport Director Muhammad Jasim told AL-NIDA' that the airport was initially operated by a technical cadre of 30 people, which was joined last September by Kuwaiti and Arab cadres and some Asians.

He added that all electronic equipment and systems are operating and that there is continued follow-up by the transport and communications minister, the senior under secretary of the ministry, the Civil Aviation director general, and the director general of Iraqi Airways.

Concerning ticket prices, Muhammad Jasim said that the price of a tourist class ticket is 45 dinars, while the price of a first class ticket is 65 dinars.

About scheduled flights, he said there are five to six flights daily carrying about 700-800 passengers.

He noted that in certain cases 10 flights are scheduled daily.

He explained that the Civil Aviation Directorate has facilitated the freight process aboard planes and has provided luggage carts.

Concluding his statement, the Kazimah Airport director urged the district's municipality to step up their work at the airport to remove garbage and waste to give the airport a decent look.

Qatar

Defense Minister Meets With Canadian Counterpart

JN1511182190 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, Nov 15 (GNA)—Qatari Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani received here today Canadian Defence Minister William McKnight who is currently on a visit to Qatar as part of a tour of countries of the region.

Latest developments in the situation in the region and coordination in the military fields of interest to both countries figured in the talks.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister on Gulf, Other Issues

LD1511113390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Holy Mecca, 14 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, chairman of the supreme council of information, and chairman of the pilgrimage supreme committee, met yesterday at the Holy Mecca cultural and literary club with a number of intellectuals and literary figures. They held a constructive dialogue on the current situation in the Arab Gulf region resulting from the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

In reality, I meet you this evening while we are still living the tragedy that has befallen the Arab and Islamic nations in general, and the Gulf states in particular. The shadow of this tragedy is still casting its heavy cloud on our region, and we pray to God that its darkness will disappear so that one can see light again and matters will become clearer. God knows that all of you strive for peace, love, and harmony in whatever you do. If aggression is imposed on you by others, however, you are left with no choice other than to resort to legitimate defense for the sake of justice and religion on the first level, and for the sake of land, honor, dignity and self-defense on the second level.

Sadly, things still remain the same from a general prospective. What I would like to stress here is that your country and your leadership have taken all the necessary measures to counter every aggression and to thwart danger.

We have been hoping daily to hear a positive response from the one who has occupied a dear and neighbor country. He occupied it on a dark night, thus committing treason. It is the State of Kuwait. The fundamentals upon which your country has been established have been reiterated by the custodian of the two holy mosques. These fundamentals will continue as they are until a wrong has been put to right.

I have been hearing of peaceful efforts being deployed; we are hoping for peace, but we have not had any positive response to any Arab, international, or individual peace effort by Islamic or Arab groups from the aggressor and the occupier.

The fact remains that there is an aggression and injustice, and under no circumstances can this be allowed to continue. We should insist that Kuwait become a free, Muslim, and independent state under its legitimate leadership, represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah. We should stress that the aggression and threat imposed against your country, on whose eastern and northeastern borders one finds columns of mobilized troops, must disappear. [passage omitted]

Afterward, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz answered a number of questions by Dr. Rashid al-Rajih [not further identified]. [passage omitted]

Question: The whole world has condemned the aggression by a neighbor against his other neighbor, the fraternal Arab and Muslim State of Kuwait. The tyrant Saddam Husayn has portrayed a dark image for his nation and his country through his act at a time when efforts were directed at burying the rift among countries. The leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia realized the seriousness of the situation, and took the necessary measures and precautions in such a situation. The leadership made plans to protect our sacred shrines, homeland, and citizens, either through our armed forces, through seeking assistance from troops of our Arab and Muslim brothers, or through the necessary support from friends in accordance with edicts pronounced by well-established religious scholars of the nation. Does your highness have anything to say in this connection?

Answer: The fact remains exactly as you have highlighted it. I have nothing to add on this other than to say that what you said is true. [passage omitted]

Question: The Gulf events have highlighted some shortcomings, among them the call for allowing women to drive a car and to contravene Islamic conduct. The Interior Ministry issued a statement based on an edict from the supreme ulema [religious scholars) body to refute and stop this call. We would like more elaboration on this statement. Thank you.

Answer: It is regrettable that such an incident did occur. It is regrettable that such an incident was related to women from this country. I would like to stress, however, that they were only a minority, a small one indeed, as the number of women who took part in this action did not exceed 47.

We are aware that some of these women were not brought up in this land and not inside these households: Our Islamic households know how to bring up their men and women. It is also regrettable that some of the guardians of these women allowed them to take such action.

As you know, basically speaking, a woman is not allowed to drive a car because she cannot be issued a driver's license. No traffic administration has ever received an application form from a woman or has issued a driving license to any woman.

As you have read in the Interior Ministry statement that was endorsed by the jurisprudence. I have no say in this matter because it is a matter that concerns the rulers in this issue. These scholars came to the conclusion that there are numerous negative sides to the issuing of women drivers. Therefore, they should be forbidden from driving. We have just reiterated a matter that was in practice for a long time. I would like to emphasize and let everybody know that we will not tolerate any such matters.

I would like to say to this minority of women and to those who support them that they did not take religion into consideration in this connection. They did not take into account the interests of their country. They did not respect a tradition accepted by society, and they did not take into account the sensitivity of the period of time we are now experiencing.

We are living in times when matters that require debate and discussion should be left to another time, because the whole nation is directing its attention toward defending the homeland. Its men, women, youth, and children should act as one body. I believe that there is no citizen in this country who does not reject such actions.

Worse still is the fact that these women were not content with presenting a petition to his royal highness the governor of Riyadh, but they actually practically implemented their demands by driving more than 12 cars along these borders. They drove for a short distance; they actually intended to drive for a longer distance had it not been for the intervention of the police and the body of Do Good and Prohibit Evil, who put an end to this foolish and unacceptable behavior. Any protest or gathering is unacceptable because the doors of the officials are open, and because sincere and loyal citizens know how to go about seeking advice and voice their demands.

As for the dissenter, the sectarian, and the ignorant, [the people] will in any case find the one who will put him on the right path, and will say to him: You must know your place; you are ignorant and you are unaware of things. [passage omitted]

Question: The state, thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques, does its utmost to serve the pilgrims every year so they may perform their pilgrimage in security and stability. Could your highness shed some light on the measures taken by the state for this year's pilgrimage?

Answer: Pilgrimage is a duty entrusted to us each year. It is not a season that comes at one time, and is then delayed another time. The state has always discussed and debated matters of pilgrimage since the pilgrims left Muna.

In fact, it is regrettable to note that our Islamic world states bring differences into religious matters. These are religious duties. Can one imagine that he can change his prayers for the sake of a political issue or for the sake of a difference of opinion between himself and another person? I believe that this is not correct. The pilgrimage is a duty, as is praying. This is not something new for us. As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it forgets all differences for the sake of facilitating the path for any pilgrim to come to these sacred territories and perform the pilgrimage. I would like to warn our Mulsim brothers, however, to respect this duty and to respect this sacred land.

Having said that, I would like to stress that we take the necessary measures to meet all eventualities. We hope that when the next pilgrimage season begins, most issues that are clouding relations among Islamic countries will have disappeared.

Gulf Ministers Urged To Consider Future Security

PM1411170190 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 8 Nov 90 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Necessary Security"]

[Text] Many conferences, studies, and committees have spoken of Gulf security requirements, but what has been achieved in the life of the Cooperation Council [GCC] does not meet the requirements. Perhaps the Gulf states' relations had been ideal in comparison with the general Arab situation, but the laying down of security foundations in relation to the sensitive role and position of the Gulf states was inadequate and did not represent a very positive step in the shouldering of that difficult responsibility.

The occupation of Kuwait has certaily introduced new imperatives. We believe that it is essential for the GCC security file to be reopened without any sensitivities and without the belief that there are no internal or external threats to that security.

The Kuwait events have demonstrated that there are no permanent friendships, but enmities determined by policies of adventure and individual leaderships, and that the Gulf cannot be excluded from any extremism or terrorism led by a state, an organization, or elements linked to terrorism and plotting. Calling a spade a spade must be the motto of the Gulf ministers' emergency conference. We should not subject our views and ideas to the same beliefs as jeopardized the security agreements and were the main objective in the protection of the Gulf using its own material and manpower resources alone.

There was an Iraq-Iran war. The results of that war were clear. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a consequence of these developments. Even if the problem is eliminated through war or diplomacy, keeping the Gulf security organs as they are will not be a sufficient guarantee that no other such problems will result from similar motives or aims on the part of any state. That is why we should not be too optimistic, and we should realize that the basis of security is the framework which provides all the means of stability, development, and protection of human rights.

If the Gulf is a strategic and important region for the whole world, then that should be translated into Gulf security action. That means forgetting the ideas that formerly obstructed progress, and working without a complex about the great and the small, because the aim is the same. There is more than one party encouraging the undermining of Gulf security, and there is more than one way of underming that security. Suffice it to say that those who we had deluded ourselves into believing were our friends and allies in a common fate were in fact the ones who turned against us and began marking our countries on their maps as gifts from Saddam Husayn.

We know that emphasizing the Gulf's unity is not merely an emotional or a political expression, because that unity is a reality and a matter of destiny and therefore should

not be tackled with emotion or with prolonged complaisance in the face of the hatred and plots triggered by the occupation of Kuwait. We, therefore, must tackle the current circumstances with maximum realism and should view our future solely in the light of our own interests; and we should also collaborate fully to ensure a common security based on practical and effective foundations, without waiting for others to defend our rights and entity.

Once again we say: This meeting is necessary because the task is very great and brooks no delay in analyzing the realities and basing all future prospects on them, particularly when it comes to common security.

United Arab Emirates

Kenyan Energy Minister Biwott Makes Visit

Delivers Moi Message to President

JN1311164390 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Highness the President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi concerning the situation in the region and the relations of cooperation between the two countries and means of developing them. The message was conveyed by Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott when received by the president today. [passage omitted]

Leaves Abu Dhabi 15 Nov

JN1511132790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Kenyan Energy Minister Nicholas Biwott left the country at an early hour this morning after a visit to the United Arab Emirates lasting several days. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Minister Says Yemen No Party to Gulf War

NC1511202490 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 15 (AFP)—Yemen will not participate in any conflict that may erupt in the Gulf, the Yemeni foreign minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, told Agence France-Presse on Thursday [15 November].

Mr. Iryani, whose country sided with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait on August 2, said that "in the event a war breaks out in the Gulf, Sanaa will take defensive actions to censure the security and integrity of Yemen."

Iraq has since its invasion of its southern neighbor faced off against a massive, multi-national troop buildup in the region.

Asked about participation in an emergency Arab summit on the Gulf crisis called by Morocco's King Hassan II, Mr. Iryani said Yemen would wait for the parties concerned to announce their decision before committing itself.

He said the repatriation of more than 800,000 Yemenis who worked in Saudi Arabia "had not contributed to destabilization or altered the process of unifying the two Yemens." North and South Yemen were unified in May.

Thousands of Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia were sent packing by authorities there in retaliation for Sanaa's support of Baghdad.

Mr. Iryani dismissed reports in Cairo and Riyadh that aims of the Arab Cooperation Council—formed in March 1989 by Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq—would have led to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the invasion of southwestern Saudi Arabia by Yemen.

"The Saudi rumors on aggressive Jordanian-Yemeni intentions aim at justifying the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia," the minister said.

"Military cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia is currently being carried out under an American umbrella," he added.

Soviet Envoy Views Talks With Salih, Departs

JN1511144490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov left Sanaa today following a one-day visit to our country. The Soviet deputy foreign minister conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the means to find a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency SABA, the Soviet official voiced deep satisfaction over the meeting with the brother chairman of the Presidential Council, and his cordial, in-depth talks, which were marked by a positive openness. He said that during their talks they exchanged views on efforts that should be made to find a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister said the Republic of Yemen and the Soviet Union concur in their views concerning the endeavors to spare the region a war and to find an Arab solution to the crisis in virtue of the two countries' membership in the Security Council.

The Soviet envoy pointed to Moscow's stance toward the Gulf crisis. He said that the Soviet leadership believes there is a need to take maximum action to prevent war and that the Security Council should (?undertake the mission) so as to establish peace and stability in the region.

He added that the Soviet position stresses the importance of the Arab factor in finding a settlement to the Gulf crisis and in establishing security and stability in

the region. In this regard he noted President Gorbachev's statements during his recent visit to Paris, during which he emphasized the importance of peaceful efforts and coordination of Arab efforts.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister explained that his talks with the brother chairman of the Presidential Council also dealt with the relations of friendship between the two countries and ways to enhance them.

The Soviet official was seen off by brother 'Uthman Dayfallah, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry for [word indistinct] affairs; a representative of the Presidential Protocol Office; and Veniamin Popov, Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

170 Bulgarians Reportedly Leave Baghdad for Sofia

NC1511161390 Paris AFP in English 1529 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 15 (AFP)—A group of 170 Bulgarians, including nine who had lived in Kuwait, left here for Sofia on Thursday aboard an Iraqi Airways Boeing 707, airport sources said.

With their departure, some 500 of their countrymen remain in Iraq and are to be repatriated in the next few days, a spokesman for the Bulgarian embassy said here.

He said contacts were underway with Iraqi authorities for the return of other Bulgarians.

The release of all Bulgarian nationals trapped in Iraq was approved November 3 by President Saddam Husayn.

Source Says Irish, Dutch Hostages May Go Free

AU1511141190 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Amsterdam, Nov 15 (AFP)—A group of 26 Irish nationals and a Dutchman working at an Irish hospital in Baghdad are to be allowed out of Iraq, the father of the Dutch hostage said here Thursday.

Douwe Wouters, a clergyman who chairs a committee set up by relatives of Dutch hostages, said his son Siego telephoned him from Iraq and said the group would travel to Jordan later in the day and on to the German city of Frankfurt on Friday.

A total of 155 Dutch nationals remain in Iraq and Kuwait. About 100 of them are employees of two dredging companies working in southern Iraq.

Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt brought back 10 Dutch nationals along with Germans and other Western nationals last week following a visit to Baghdad, while one Dutch hostage returned home of his own accord after obtaining an exit visa from Iraqi authorities.

British Women Visit Against Government's Wishes

JN1511181490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—The British wives of Iraq's guests, the messengers of peace, have expressed the desire of the majority of the sectors of the British people—women and men—that a lasting and comprehensive peace be achieved in our region without foreign interference. During a meeting today with Miss Iftikhar Ahmad Ayyub, deputy chairwoman of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, the British women said that they are conveying the feelings of support and backing from the British women to Iraq, as well as their desire that peace prevail in the region, because war only produces catastrophe and harms our children and the rest of mankind.

The British women noted that they came to Baghdad against the wishes of the British Government, which tried to stop them and directed sharp criticism at them, because of their peace-loving stand and their desire to visit their husbands in Iraq. They noted that the wives of the guests of Iraq, together with hundreds of women supporting peace, wrote many protest letters to Prime Minister Thatcher and organized processions denouncing the government's decision in support of war. They confirmed that the British people wanted peace.

The deputy chairwoman of the Iraqi General Federation reviewed the Iraqi women's contributions to the march of cultural awakening in Iraq and to the confrontation of the imperialist economic siege against Iraq.

Asians Reportedly Trapped Near Turkish Border

NC1511165790 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 15 (AFP)—A thousand Asian nationals who fled Kuwait have been stranded for more than a month on Iraqi territory near the border with Turkey, Asian diplomatic sources said Thursday.

Some 400 Indians, along with 600 citizens of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Philippines, are living in precarious conditions at Zakho, 450 kilometers (280 miles) north of here opposite the Turkish town of Sirnak.

They include women and small children and there are fears for their health as winter rain and snow starts to pelt the mountainous region.

Asian diplomats said Iraqi authorities since October 9 have refused to allow vehicles registered in Kuwait to cross the border and are demanding that they return to the emirate to receive Iraqi license plates.

The Asians arrived in Zakho aboard 350 cars.

"These poor people do not want to abandon their cars," explained one diplomat. "They say that after leaving everything in Kuwait, the car is the only piece of property they have left and they've piled in everything they could."

The embassies concerned have not been allowed to send envoys to the scene, although the Indian mission has been able to have supplies delivered.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on August 2 and Baghdad later annexed the emirate.

'Aziz, Iran's Velayati Resume Political Talks

JN1511183090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Political talks resumed at the Foreign Ministry today between the Iraqi side led by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iranian side led by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The two groups resumed the discussion of relations between the two neighborly countries. They also exchanged views on a number of issues of concern to the two sides.

The talks were attended for Iraq by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, chief of the International Organizations and Conferences Desk; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran. For Iran, the talks were attended by Sarmadi, assistant foreign minister; Sirus Naseri, Iran's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva; 'Ali Kharm [name as received], the minister's adviser; and Jawad Turk [name as received], chief of the Gulf Desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Calls Talks 'Positive,' Departs

JN1511205890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening after a two-day official visit to Iraq.

'Ali Akbar Velayati described his meeting with President Saddam Husayn as positive and fruitful. In a statement to an INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, he said that the talks with Iraq made positive progress in the interest of the two people. He said: We will continue the work with rapid steps to reinforce and normalize relations between the two neighborly countries.

He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva; several officials from the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Further on Daniel Ortega Visit to Baghdad

Confers With Ramadan

JN1511152290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the accompanying delegation.

The first deputy prime minister said that the U.S. Administration understands peace as capitulation, relinquishment of countries' rights, and the handing of these rights to the Americans. He declared that the era of defeatism and capitulation in the Arab arena is gone and that Iraq is honored to lead a new revolutionary Arab era against America, the people's enemy.

Ramadan added that the leaders of capitulation in the region such as America's agents and allies no longer have a position in Arab politics. He said that the revolutionary leaders among the Arabs led by President Saddam Husayn together with the Arab masses will destroy American tyranny and interference in the Arabs' internal affairs. This will become the beginning of the destruction of American tyranny in all Third World countries, which suffered from America's subjugation for long years and from its policies, aimed at humiliating, controlling, and starving their people, he said.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that Israel will be an arena for war if America ignites the fire of aggression; it will become like the arenas in which the forces of America and its allies are stationed. He said that all of the Arab people will take revenge on America and avenge their dignity, existence, and resources after suffering from displacement, starvation, and backwardness, and after the Zionist entity was planted in the heart of the Arab nation to expand, occupy Arab lands, and continue with the policy of killing, torturing, and deportation practiced against the Arabs in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan.

The former Nicaraguan president stated that the national awakening revived by President Saddam Husayn in the Arab homeland and his challenge of America's aggressive policy extends to all revolutionary movements and Third World countries that suffered from the aggressive American policy to deprive people of their will and to control it.

He expressed solidarity with Iraq in its leading of the battles of liberation and sovereignty against America and its allies. He noted that the liberation movements in Third World countries have begun to organize their ranks and build up their alliance to strike at American interests, deriving strength and determination from President Saddam Husayn's own strength in defending legitimate rights, just peace, and freedom.

Daniel Ortega said that America does not recognize international laws and charters, and neither is it concerned about people's interests, human rights, or freedom. It uses all methods under various covers to achieve only its interests in order to increase its hegemony and to gain unchallenged mastery over the world. He declared that this policy will be defeated and dashed against the people's awareness and the presence of brave revolutionary leaders who believe in the people's potentials and capabilities.

Meets With Saddam

JN1511200090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation today.

Leader President Saddam Husayn held a wide-ranging and thorough dialogue with Mr. Ortega about how the

situation in the region had developed and about the causes of the peoples' struggle and the liberation movements in Third World countries against the injustice, arrogance, and hegemony of imperialism, as well as the danger that the poor will continue to be poor in these vast areas of the world, not to mention the imposition of a policy of discrimination against them by the industrially developed countries.

The president leader explained Iraq's stand. He said that Iraq prefers the course of peace and dialogue to tackle the current situation and solve the region's other problems, foremost being the Palestinian people's cause. His excellency added: But at the same time, we reject the use of double standards and the dual approach to the region's causes.

Leader President Saddam Husayn explained that there is a reciprocal effect in the struggle of Third World people. A victory any of these people attain enhances and benefits the struggle of other people. His excellency added: What is important is that the oppressor powers must feel that they are unable to win unchallenged mastery over the people, and that the people with their will are capable of attaining their objectives when they are part of the reality God wants and part of what is close to the poor and the needy.

Leader President Saddam Husayn said: We believe that the militant trench in Third World countries extends uninterruptedly from Latin America through Africa to Asia.

Daniel Ortega communicated to leader President Saddam his solidarity with the Iraqi people. Addressing his excellency, he said: Under the circumstances we found it was our duty to come and visit you. Ortega declared that the struggle for liberation and independence by the people of Latin America continues to take place, and that the changes that international politics have undergone have not affected the vigor of this struggle.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Meets With Salih

JN1611104390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met this morning with former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn seeks peace as the means to resolve the region's problems. However, if forced, it will fight all forces of evil and aggression if they try to ignite war, he added. He stressed that the saber rattling of the U.S. and Atlantic concentrations and fleets in the Gulf and the unfair economic blockade imposed on Iraq will not terrorize us or move us from our firm, principled line to support all liberation movements in the world and oppose all forms of imperialism and Zionism.

The former Nicaraguan president voiced his absolute solidarity with Iraq in its battles for liberation and sovereignty against the United States and its allies and agents. He stressed that the developments in the Gulf must be resolved through a comprehensive peaceful solution without using the military option, and that the Palestine question should not be isolated from the other issues.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN1611120090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his delegation.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the latest regional developments and the importance of resolving all problems in the area through peaceful means, in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. The meeting also dealt with the issues of struggle against U.S. hegemony in the world, particularly in the Arab region and Latin America.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the head of the Foreign Ministry's Second Political Department.

UK's Brown Criticizes Thatcher, Gulf Policy

Denounces Military Buildup

JN1511161790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met at noon today with Ron Brown, British member of Parliament for the Labor Party, and the accompanying delegation.

The minister spoke about Iraq's principled and firm position on the military buildup of the United States and its allies in the Arabian Gulf and their occupation of the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. He also spoke about the unjust resolutions adopted to deprive Iraq of food, milk, and medical supplies. He declared that the objective solution to problems in the region should be based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Brown denounced the military buildup in the region and Thatcher's hostility against Iraq. He noted that he will make the required efforts to mobilize British public opinion against Thatcher's policy, because the military confrontation in the region will be destructive and comprehensive for all.

Ron Brown announced that he will convey a message from the British workers in Iraq to Thatcher asking her to hold direct talks with Iraq to solve the crisis in a way that will guarantee the legitimate interests of the concerned parties.

The British MP said that depriving Iraq of food, medicine, and milk for babies does not seem strange coming from Thatcher, because she deprived the British children of milk when she was the minister of education in the seventies.

Praises Saddam Initiative

JN1611094490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, has stressed that the United States seeks to dominate the world and control the means for scientific and economic progress. This, he added, should prompt the peace-loving countries to cooperate and confront that aggressive policy.

During his meeting today with Ron Brown, Labor member of the British House of Commons, Salman added that Iraq wants a genuine and comprehensive peace. He referred in this regard to President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August.

Mr. Brown said the initiative is the best practical solution to resolve all problems in the region, and is the principal key to achieving a comprehensive peace.

Condemns Thatcher Policy

JN1611093190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—Mr. Ron Brown, member of the British House of Commons and head of the opposition Labor Party delegation, has said President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 12 August sets a radical solution to all problems in the region.

In statements to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, Mr. Brown said that Bush and Thatcher are pushing things in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf in the direction of war. He stressed that many people will be harmed by the U.S. Administration's call to fight a war against Iraq.

Regarding the economic blockade, Mr. Brown said he is against the blockade, barring milk from reaching the children, and medicines and food from reaching the Iraqi people. He said this is an inhumane act.

Mr. Brown expressed hope that the blockade will be lifted, and wondered why similar stringent measures were not taken against the parties that have been rejecting the UN Security Council resolutions for many years, such as Israel.

He said the Arabian Gulf problem has a long history which everyone must be aware of. He stressed that Kuwait is historically a part of Iraq, and that the best way to resolve such a crisis is peaceful dialogue and the negotiating table. He added: If war starts, its consequences will be destructive and it will bring about a major human tragedy. Oilfields will also be affected, and the results of the war will not reflect on the Arabian Gulf states alone, but will also cover many world states and major industrial firms.

Brown said: The Zionists want to ignite war, and the United States wants to control the states of the world under the pretext of protecting them. It also wants to control the oilfields, because this will serve its interests. However, the United States does not have the right to declare itself a policeman in the region. Thatcher's aggressive policy was met with revulsion from a number of officials who have resigned from her cabinet, and she is now losing her popularity.

Ron Brown said that Iraq's call for peace, made by President Saddam Husayn, is a genuine call which is attached to the conditions of dignity and freedom. By making this visit, I have discovered the depth of this peace-loving call, he concluded.

Soviet Delegate Praises Saddam Initiative

JN1511172090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Aleksandr Kokov, head of the Soviet peace messengers delegation and secretary general of the magazine MOLODAYA GVARDIYA [HURRAS AL-SHABAB] in the USSR, has praised leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative announced on 12 August. In a statement to AL-THAWRAH published today, he said that President Saddam Husayn's initiative should be taken into consideration because it represents a comprehensive solution to all problems in the region and contains human principles, including justice, rights, and fairness.

Kokov condemned the economic siege imposed on Iraq, saying that it is an unfair, inhuman decision. He added that this decision represents one viewpoint only, not the viewpoint of the world, because there are no international resolutions aimed at starving people and depriving children of food and medicine.

The head of the Soviet peace delegation added that the United States and its allies dispatched their forces to the region because they do not want peace in the region. Therefore, they are trying to achieve their dreams in accordance with an imperialist policy.

Concluding his statement, Aleksandr Kokov expressed hope that a just peace would be achieved in the region through peaceful solutions without resorting to military force.

Jordanian Information Minister, Delegation Depart

JN1611073890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad at

noon today after a three-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Jordanian minister attended the meeting of the information ministers of several Arab countries concluded in Baghdad yesterday.

In a statement to an INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, the Jordanian minister affirmed the need for coordination and cooperation among the Arab media organs in this critical stage through which our Arab nation is passing. The Jordanian minister stressed the importance of media work to expose all conspiratorial intentions and schemes designed by imperialism and Zionism against the security and sovereignty of our Arab nation. He also affirmed the need to confront the unjust media campaigns launched by Western and Zionist media against Iraq and the brave intifadah of our Arab people in the occupied territory.

Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din praised leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, describing it as the only path to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Assembly Speaker Confers With Swiss Delegation

JN1611074690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has reviewed the developments in the region and the plots and provocations being hatched by America to commit aggression against Iraq and strike at its cultural achievements. During his meeting today with Edgar Ohlar [name as received], member of the Swiss Parliament and chairman of the Economic Committee in the Parliament, and the accompanying delegation, Salih also noted that the Iraqi people's hosting of foreign nationals promotes opportunities for peace in the region, now that the aggressive objectives of the U.S. forces stationed in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] have been revealed.

The Swiss delegation stressed the need to solve all problems in the region through peaceful means—away from force, threats, and aggression—which will drag the region and the entire world into a real catastrophe.

The delegation expressed its rejection of the repressive measures taken against Iraq represented by preventing food, medicine, and milk for babies from reaching Iraq.

Belgian Red Cross Official Discusses Mission

JN1611124390 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 16, INA—Director General of the Belgian Red Cross Mr. Carl Van de Kerckhove [name as received] said that meeting the needs of the Iraqi blood bank tops the priorities of his mission in Baghdad.

The Belgian Red Cross official, who is currently in Iraq, told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER that the Iraqi blood bank is his first priority because of its dire need of the materials used to safeguard good blood transfusion.

"We want to discuss the need of the country's clinics and maternity centres of anaesthesia, medicines, and baby milk".

He explained that he has held a series of meetings with his colleagues in the Iraqi Red Crescent to discuss what the two sister societies can do together to bring about a direct bilateral project in the interest of the Iraqis and the Belgian nationals who are now in Iraq.

"There are about 18 Red Crescent medical centres in the country. So we are here to discuss their need with President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Dr. Ibrahim al-Nuri and the director of the public relations of the Red Crescent Dr. A. Hamid, to sort out their difficulties and provide them with their needs", said the Belgian Red Cross official.

Mr. Van de Kerkhove stressed that his mission did not only cover the question of sending just one shipment of medicine to Iraq. Rather, it is a matter of reaching a long-term agreement and for many years to supply the Iraqi Red Crescent with its needs of medicine, anaesthesia, baby food and the like.

We have already seen all our people in Baghdad, he said.

"I hope that the situation in the Gulf region will soon be settled peacefully in the utmost interest of humanity all over the world and the Iraqis. [quotation marks as received]

Mr. Van de Kerckhove added that the Belgian Red Cross delegation, which included Dr. An Debaerdemaeker and Mr. Thiery Eid [names as received], had already met with senior Iraqi officials including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

They also met the Australian, Dutch and Italian Red Cross teams and discussed with them how best to provide their services for the Iraqi Red Crescent.

The Australian and the Italian Red Cross are on similar missions in Baghdad.

Jihad 'Ready to Strike' Foreign Interests

JN1411210690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Colonel Dr. Nadir As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, mufti of the Palestine Liberation Army and spokesman of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, has lauded President Saddam Husayn's heroic, principled, and brave confrontation of the forces of despotism and aggression.

During a meeting with Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil today, he stressed that inevitable and great victory has become near, with God's help, under the leadership of mujahid President Saddam Husayn, the upholder of the banners of holy jihad. He said that the burning feelings of the Arab and Islamic nations grow day after day to carry out jihad along with Iraq and its leader to liberate the Islamic sanctities in

Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and in holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblas and the third holiest mosque.

He added that the Muslim mujahidin, throughout the Arab homeland and the Islamic world, are at Iraq's disposal to fight injustice and aggression, which are represented in the imperialist American- Zionist-Atlantic invasion forces in Najd and Hejaz and their agents—the betrayer of the two holy mosques, Fahd, and Husni.

Dr. Nadir al-Tamimi said that the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al- Maqdis is ready to strike at the interests of foreign invasion forces should they attempt to attack noble Iraq.

During the meeting, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil reviewed the aggressive imperialist Zionist-American scheme against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations, which is aimed at plundering their wealth and destroying their will.

Press Say U.S. Alliance in Gulf 'Fragmented'

JN1211085290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers issued here today are unanimous that the alliance established by U.S. President Bush against Iraq has broken up and fragmented, despite all his efforts and concern to maintain cohesion. The Iraqi newspapers call on the countries that are not part of the U.S. game to review their positions and proceed from their own independent vision in dealing with the issues of the region.

AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in its editorial: This alliance has cracked because it is fake, because it was established through the carrot-and-stick policy and pressure, and because it is contrary to the UN Charter. The paper holds the United States directly responsible for tension and instability by using a double-standard policy in dealing with the issues of the region, as well as for the Zionist entity's continued crimes against the Palestinian Arab people.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The United States was not satisfied with ignoring the earnest initiative presented by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August, but increasingly revealed its premeditated, aggressive intentions and pushed things to the edge of the abyss and conflagration. The Iraqi paper stresses that these U.S. and colonialist positions make it incumbent upon the countries that are not part of the U.S. game to review their positions and proceed from their own independent vision in dealing with the issues of the region, particularly the Palestine question.

AL-'IRAQ says in its editorial that U.S. officials' statements and claims on a sure desire to remove the specter of war from the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula were merely lies intended to buy time to prepare more invasion forces to join the forces stationed in the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The paper notes that the series of conspiracies to strike at Iraq began with the treacherous Cairo meeting on 10 August. In that meeting, the scenario had been ready in the Pentagon offices for a long time, the band of conspirators and traitors played the roles designed for them, and Husni represented their treason when he spoke about mobilizing U.S. and friendly forces to defend the lands of Najd and Hejaz.

AL-'IRAQ stresses that it is impossible to peddle the big conspiracy and the evil intentions while strong, lofty Iraq exists. Bush should realize that all the remnants of invasion and aggression against Iraq—throughout history—were defeated and disappointed. Iraqis today are closing ranks, united in their hearts, confident in the victorious historic march led by President Saddam Husayn.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq will respond to one strike with scores of strikes and one shot with many doubles; it will turn every foothold of the invaders—if they commit aggression—into a battlefield for a comprehensive confrontation. The paper adds that, after today, there will be no room for mixing up colors or interlocking trenches. Between us, there is the battlefield of the decisive confrontation where everyone in his trench will face the other—all faithfulness in front of all infidelity.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: After 2 August, the believers have decided everything, chosen their path, and defined the objectives. The front of the evil ones is being fragmented after they suffocated and cried, frightened by the gathering of justice who opted for God's honor, dignity, and sovereignty by standing in Iraq's trench to confront the evil, treason, and aggression.

The Iraqi paper says that the features of the confrontation have become clear between us and those who are fascinated by their size and capacity for terrorizing Iraq. The paper says: Which of the two options will they chose? We are waiting for a comprehensive peace in the entire region through the unconditional withdrawal of the invaders from the land of the holy places, restoring the rights of the people of Palestine, and the liberation of the holy Jerusalem. Otherwise, let them try their stumbling luck by committing aggression against Iraq which will cost them a great deal of what they know or do not know.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that those who believe that their aggression will pass swiftly in one, two, or three battles are having a grand illusion and will fail in their miscalculations when Iraq and all the free men and believers siding with it surprise them by turning the blitzkrieg which they are planning into a comprehensive confrontation that will harvest their concentrations, open fronts which they had not taken into account, and in which the price will also be paid by all their allies inside and outside the region.

The Iraqi paper notes that the path of Palestine is now paved before all believers who have honest intentions to liberate holy Jerusalem, for which we are overcome with longing.

AL-QADISIYAH, the organ of the Defense Ministry, holds the big powers in the Security Council responsible for maintaining world security as defined by the UN Charter. In its editorial, the paper says that Washington exploited the Gulf events to peddle unjust and aggressive resolutions against Iraq through the United Nations. The Iraqi paper adds that American aggressiveness has escalated since the Baker-Fahd agreement and Bush's recent announcement on increasing the number of his troops and weapons in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH reviews the new developments in the region and the declared U.S. stands that completely exclude the idea of a political settlement and a peaceful dialogue to the crisis. These stands, consequently, were confined to the calls for war and to the preparations to launch it against Iraq and the Arab nation.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Washington's public approach toward war seems to be far removed from the game of international legitimacy practiced by the U.S. Administration at the Security Council when the Gulf crisis broke out. This affirms that Bush began working unilaterally on the decision of war, overlooking the so-called Western alliance and international consensus.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that in light of these developments and realities, which show American hostility and which will certainly lead to the outbreak of fighting and war in the region, Iraq believes it is necessary at this stage to explain to the world its stand on these developments and to underline the constants of its national and pan-Arab position.

The Iraqi paper calls on the official international community to put pressure on Washington to stop tampering with world security, spreading the atmosphere of war, and preparing for its outbreak to prove its hegemony over the world and its unilateral role as the only superpower in this world.

'Aziz Says U.S. Seeking 'Pretext' for War

LD1411223390 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] And now dear friends here is a special report: Iraq's foreign minister's statement in which he exposes the real motives behind the White House spokesman's statement.

Iraq on Monday said the American Administration is making up a pretext for launching an aggression against the Arab country and warned that U.S. should feel full responsibility for any such aggression. The deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, was quoted by Iraqi news agency as saying that Iraq has repeatedly asserted its desire to reach a peaceful and just settlement to all issues of the region. Baghdad is already shouldering its responsibility towards achieving peace, he said.

Mr. 'Aziz was commenting on a statement on Monday by the White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, alleging there are always those unforseen kinds of provocations that might result in having the U.S. to move first. The U.S. official was apparently hinting to the U.S. intention to link Iraq with terrorist acts, most probably committed by the CIA to implicate Baghdad.

The foreign minister added that United States has been planning right from the beginning to launch an aggression against Iraq to achieve its imperialist goals in the region. He said that to achieve its aggressive aims, Washington is shuffling the cards in order to mislead the American people, the U.S. Congress and the world public opinion at large.

America claimed at the start of Gulf events that the U.S. buildup was defensive, aiming at defending Saudi Arabia against an alleged threat. This claim came out (?till) Bush officially declared that he has changed his goal from defensive against an alleged threat, to offensive aimed at launching an aggression against Iraq. As we have been affirming, it has become visibly clear that the U.S. has been planning to launch an aggression against Iraq right from the beginning to achieve its imperialist goals in the region, the minister said.

Paper Criticizes 'Colonialist Mentality'

JN1611120990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 3

[Editorial: "The Current of Truth"]

[Text] Yesterday the old hag Thatcher came up with a statement in which she said that she—and Bush—have the "legal authority" to launch a war against Iraq without consulting the UN Security Council. For his part, Bush continued his fervent, frenzied escalation of the armed aggression option against Iraq. Perhaps the question that presents itself here is: What is this legal authority that Thatcher is talking about, while she is experiencing her successive personal defeats and the defeats of her party? This also applies to Bush, who lost the most important cards he had in Congress when the Republicans lost the majority of seats. However, Bush and Thatcher continue to dispatch armies and issue war threats and establish by themselves what they consider to be an appropriate time limit.

Evidently, each of them is holding on to the colonialist mentality that suits both of them. Thatcher has not yet abandoned the complex of the old colonialist, on whose land the sun never set. Bush, for his part, continues to live in the U.S. "Rambo" era, where there is the lust for expansion and hegemony with the aim of imposing the U.S. model and "defending" the American way of life. However, if Bush and Thatcher can make the decision to launch a war, they cannot control the end of this war. If they believe that by such means they can intimidate Iraq, they must be greatly deluded. Iraq, along with the masses of the Arab nation, has made the decision to confront the colonialist, imperialist, and Zionist forces, irrespective of the required sacrifices. They must realize that the days when they used to dictate standards of legitimacy and

impose whatever maps they wished have gone. The sons of the Arab nation are awaiting with overwhelming eagerness the historic battle to make their enemies taste humiliation.

Unions Call for Boycott of U.S., Allied Products

JN1211071690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—Participants in the 17th regular annual meeting of the specialized Arab unions have recommended setting up a delegation of federations to visit the Arab countries to explore ways of boycotting the United States and its allies.

They also recommended boycotting products and raw materials imported from countries participating in imposing the inhuman economic siege on Iraq and exerting serious efforts to find local alternatives and importing them from friendly institutions. [passage omitted]

The specialized Arab unions also issued a statement in which they pledged their full and unlimited support for Iraq in its [word indistinct] the enemies of the Arab nation and mobilizing all resources to liberate the Arab human being, land, and assets.

The statement affirmed that since the beginning of the war, Iraq has been subjected to the ugliest imperialist Zionist attack, which targets its achievements and the pan-Arab ambitions whose banner liberated Iraq is hoisting. The statement urged that all capabilities of the specialized Arab unions be used to prevent harm from reaching Iraq and called on the organizations, unions, and international bodies to raise their voices to condemn the aggression on Iraq. It pointed out that the 12 August intiative is a good will initiative to solve all the problems in the region.

Information Experts To Hold Meeting in Baghdad

JN1511094090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2038 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Information ministers and officials in Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Mauritania, and Tunisia have held a working session during which they held consultations on the challenges facing the Arab nation under these serious circumstances. During the session, which was chaired by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the officials also discussed ways of reinforcing cooperation among media organs in the six Arab countries to achieve their media objectives and to convey the Arab position throughout the world.

INA [IRAQI NEWS SERVICE] has learned that the ministers decided to hold meetings in Baghdad among chief editors of news agencies and the heads and directors of the radios, televisions, and information departments to lay down the executive programs for the media missions shouldered by these organs to confront the American-imperialist-Zionist onslaught against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Jasim Inaugurates Meeting

JN1411165390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim opened a meeting this evening attended by a number of Arab information ministers. The meeting was called for consultations on the role of the media in the current phase through which the Gulf region, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Arab homeland are going.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has delivered a speech in which he said: We welcome you in your second country, Iraq, while you are carrying with you your countries' feelings through which you express solidarity with the Iraqi people, who are facing, along with the Arab nation, a serious and fateful challenge under these difficult circumstances—the circumstances of confrontation with the American and Atlantic forces that have assembled in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. In addition to their desecration of our sanctities, these forces seek to attack Iraq and to destroy its military and scientific capabilities. However, we are certain that under the leadership of struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, our Armed Forces and noble people can confront all these military concentrations, fleets, and capabilities that are dedicated to carry out an aggression against us and against our Arab nation.

We are sure that the battle is one in Palestine, in the Gulf and the ocean, and anywhere on this sacred Arab land. Our meeting today is to express solidarity with Iraq and to consult and coordinate on the best means to confront this new Zionist-American campaign, whether on the psychological or the material levels. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, delivered a speech in which he said: Under these serious and exceptional circumstances for our Arab nation, we hope that through this meeting, consultations, and through the exchange of views and assessments, we can serve our common battle with the objective of giving prominence to the true Arab voice calling for a just solution based on entrenched basic principles, and of adhering to Arab rights and to pan-Arab security. We are all advocates of a solution that would guarantee security and stability in our region, and tackle of all its problems and issues, primarily the Palestine question and holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Ministers Issue Joint Statement

JN1411203390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Nov 90

["Text" of statement issued at the conclusion of meetings of Arab information ministers and officials in Baghdad on 14 November]

[Text] At the invitation of Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister; Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of information; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department; Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed, minister of information in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; 'Abd- al-Rahman al-Akwa', Yemeni deputy information minister; (El Arabi Hantous), Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad, representing the Tunisian information minister, met in Baghdad on Wednesday on 26 Rabi' al-Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 14 November 1990.

The Arab information ministers and officials held consultations in a fraternal spirit, displaying a high sense of pan-Arab responsibility regarding the serious challenges to our Arab nation in the current circumstances represented by the savage economic blockade and the aggressive military threats enforced and led by the United States and its allies against Iraq and also by the campaign of oppression, killing, and displacement against our Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah by the Zionist enemy at the urging of the United States and with its financial support and other forms of assistance.

The Arab information ministers and officials considered ways of coordinating among the mass media in these Arab countries—Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Mauritania, and Tunisia—with a view to carrying out current pan-Arab media missions represented by enhancing the awareness of the Arab masses and that of the Islamic peoples regarding the dangers posed by the U.S.-allied occupation of our holy lands in the Arabian Peninsula and oil wells in the Arabian Gulf region and the escalating U.S. threats to launch an aggression against Iraq. They also discussed means of enhancing cooperation among the media to confront the intense hostile media campaigns by the United States, Britain, and their ally, the Zionist ally, and their agents—media campaigns that seek to sow horror, fear, and despair into the hearts of the Arab masses and to tarnish the image of the steadfast, dignified, and heroic position taken by the Iraqi leadership and people in defense of the Arab nation's rights and dignity, and to confront the forces of evil, injustice, and tyranny. The media campaigns of these forces also seek to impose a news blackout on the valiant heroic intifadah, which is being stepped up day in and day out throughout occupied Palestine against the Zionist occupation and its oppressive and criminal tools.

The Arab information ministers and officials reaffirmed the need to resolve the problem in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula peacefully within a framework of a comprehensive solution to all Middle East problems, foremost among which is the Palestine question. They pointed out that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August 1990 provides a good foundation for this solution.

The Arab information officials in the six Arab countries agreed that the Arabs are capable of resolving their problems by themselves, provided that they make efforts in this regard freely, without pressures or threats and blackmail that are being employed by the United States against the Arab states through its aggressive military campaign in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula and also through its frenzied efforts to impose its evil will on the international community.

The Arab information officials referred to the reluctance of the UN Security Council to condemn the Zionist enemy for its ugly crimes against our struggling Palestinian people and its failure to take any practical measures to force the Zionist enemy to implement its resolutions. They reaffirmed that this exposes the double standard and the selective approach followed regarding the implementation of the principles of international law.

The Arab information ministers and officials in the six Arab countries paid tribute to the Iraqi people's heroic steadfastness in the face of the hostile U.S. economic and military campaign. They also lauded the steadfastness of our valiant Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist campaigns of oppression, killing, and extermination.

[Dated] Baghdad, 26 Rabi' al-Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 14 November 1990

Volunteers Stage Military Parade in North

JN1411181790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraq has warned the U.S. Administration against the provocative acts it intends to carry out near its border with the aim of providing a cover for the start of its aggression. An authoritative Iraqi source considered the American maneuvers to land Navy marines an obvious provocative act that exposes, in addition to many other pieces of evidence, the American hostile intentions. The source also considered them an attempt to shuffle the cards and delude the U.S. and world public opinion and the Congress. The spokesman stressed that Iraq can reply to and destroy aggression.

It is to be noted that President Saddam Husayn has, over the past two weeks chaired several meetings dedicated to completing the field arrangements for the Kuwait operational theater, including urban fighting requirements.

Another sign of Iraq's military preparedness was demonstrated today in northern Iraq where a huge military parade of volunteers from the northern Iraqi governorates—Irbil, Mosul, Kirkuk, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk—took place. It was announced that the number

of volunteers there amounted to about 2.5 million fighters, as if Baghdad was emphasizing to all that its preparedness in the south does not affect its preparations on its northern border.

Minister on Al-Basrah, Kuwait Railroad Project

JN1011175290 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 7 Nov 90 p 2

[Interview with Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah by Hamid 'Abdallah—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abdallah] What has been achieved in the project to link Kuwait Governorate with the al-Basrah railroad? What route will this railroad follow and what are the details of the project?

[Hamzah] First of all, we must recall that Iraq has been a leading country in implementing projects leading to Arab integration. This project has been proposed for years on various levels, including at the Arab League. However, the clique that ruled Kuwait before 2 August 1990 used various pretexts to abort the project, because it has for years been plotting against Iraq in various ways.

It is a vital project. Railroads in any country are the basis for construction and development. Therefore, we are seriously implementing this project.

The initial preparatory study for linking Kuwait Governorate by rail has been completed. The study was conducted by a joint team from the Iraqi State Railroads Enterprise and the State Enterprise for the Implementation of Transportation and Communications Projects. The technical team studied many proposed routes and conducted field surveys, taking into consideration the view of other concerned ministries and state departments. It has been decided to approve the Mirbad/Safwan-al-Mitla'-Kuwait track for a railroad extending for 150 km. In addition, a subsidiary 40-km line has been approved, from the Umm al-'Aysh station to Saddamiyat al-Mitla' city and the new proposed port [not further identified]. [passage omitted]

The designs and specifications of this project, in addition to the surveys and soil tests for the line, will be prepared by Iraqi cadres in preparation for implementation in the next stage. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] What has been achieved in the field of communications and the postal service in Kuwait Governorate?

[Hamzah] Regarding communications, we instructed the Communications Enterprise from the early days to take immediate measures to facilitate communications and postal deliveries. Therefore, 120 telephone channels have been made available between Baghdad Governorate and Kuwait Governorate, and have been linked to the national switchboard at the al-Rashid Communications Center in Baghdad and the international switchboard at the Kuwait Governorate center. In addition, most of the Governorate's switchboards have been operated under the supervision of a cadre from the Communications and Post Enterprise.

Nine post offices have been opened, and it is hoped that this figure will rise to 12 soon. [passage omitted]

['Abdallah] After the return of the branch to the origin, Iraq now has an outlet to the sea. What services are to be provided in this regard to cope with the coming stage?

[Hamzah] We have taken firm and speedy measures to operate the Kuwait Governorate ports again in a normal manner. We have given instructions to the State Ports Enterprise, which has taken the following measures:

First, it organized the department of ports in Kuwait Governorate, prepared means for employees' to resume their jobs, named the al-Shuwaykh port the administration's main headquarters, and secured a number of watchmen and supervisors from Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr ports to control gates and entrances.

Second, it repaired, operated, and prepared inoperative electric cranes at the port's platforms and recommended drivers for them from al-Basrah ports.

Third, it repaired inoperative vehicles and equipment at the port to use them in operating the ports. The floating docks at the ports of Kuwait Governorate have been mended, maintained, and operated, and five supertankers have been anchored at ports in the governorate.

Fourth, a monthly average of 250 technicians and engineers has been employed to run the ports.

The names of ports have been changed as follows: Al-Shuwaykh Port has become al-Rashid Port; Khawr 'Abdallah Port has become Khawr al-Zubayr al-Kabir Port; 'Abdallah Ahmad Port has become Saddam Port; and Sa'ud Ahmad Port has become Ra's al-Zawr Port.

Ministry Official on Preemptive Strike Prospect

TA1611114290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry, Re'uven Merhav, says Israel is watching events in the Gulf very carefully and will find the ways and means to guarantee its security. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked for Merhav's reaction to THE WASHINGTON POST report that Israel would launch a preemptive strike against Iraq if the United States persists in its refusal to supply Israel with real-time satellite pictures of Iraq.

[Begin recording] [Merhav] I cannot characterize it because I didn't see the report. I can only tell you that we bear memories back from 1948, from 1967, from 1973; we do remember the lonely Iraqi bomber which found its way into Israeli skies and dropped a few bombs north of Tel Aviv, and we have a fresh memory of that. Thus we cannot do anything which will endanger our security, and we have to stay put.

[Katzenell] I'm sorry, I don't understand the reply. When you say stay put you mean that a preemptive strike is simply not in the cards at this time; on the other hand, when you recall the incursion of an Iraqi bomber in 1967, you imply that there is a clear imminent threat and that a preemptive strike might have to be part of the Israeli deterrent posture.

[Merhav] Well, I didn't say preemptive strike, and it's not for me to judge these things. I'm telling you very clearly that the closeness of the arena, of the theater of events, and the past events necessitate that Israel takes things very seriously. [end recording]

Agudat Yisrae'l Joins Coalition; Laws Promised

TA1611092390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has joined the coalition. The coalition agreement was signed a short time ago in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem. Under the accord, Knesset Members [MK's] Porush, Verdiger, and Halpert will be appointed deputy ministers. On Sunday [18 November], the cabinet will approve two bills, one banning licentious advertising and the other prohibiting public transportation on Saturdays. MK Moshe Ze'ev Feldman will be chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee.

At the ceremony, the prime minister undertook to implement the coalition accord to the letter. Rabbi Feldman said he would begin his work as committee chairman only after the promises are fulfilled.

Public Opinion Polls Show Likud Electoral Gains

TA1611120890

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 16 November and Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 16 November carry public opinion surveys pointing to an increase in the Likud's popularity over the Alignment's.

Tel Aviv HADASHOT on page 3, in a poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrachi Institute, reports that "if general elections had been held in October, the Likud would have won 38 Knesset seats, while the Alignment would have only received 27 mandates.

"Most survey respondents preferred Sharon to Rabin as defense minister; Sharon was preferred by 23.9 percent of the respondents, while Rabin was the choice of only 19.1 percent. Before the breakup of the national unity government, 34.7 percent had wanted Rabin, with only 23.9 percent opting for Sharon.

"Most of the public (55.2 percent) expressed the belief that Saddam Husayn will not attack Israel with chemical weapons. A greater majority, 70.8 percent, asserted that Israel should not launch an attack on Iraq if the United States does not launch an attack of its own."

Tel Aviv YED'IOT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) on page 3 carries a Dahaf Institute survey of 1,039 respondents "according to a representative sample of the Jewish populace." The survey was conducted between 5 and 12 November. The survey asked the question: "Who would you vote for if the elections were held today?" The answers are given in the number of Knesset seats each party would have received, with the second number, in brackets, denoting the number of seats the party has in the current Knesset.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT reports the following breakdown: "Likud—39 (40); Alignment—35 (39); Tehiya—3 (3); CRM [Citizens Rights Movement]—6 (5); Tzomet—5 (2); MAPAM [United Workers Party]—3 (3); Moledet—5 (2); Shinuy—2 (2); HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] together with PLP [Progressive List for Peace] and the Arab Democratic Party—6 (6); NRP [National Religious Party]—5 (5); Agudat Yisra'el—4 (5); SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]—5 (6); Degel Hatora—2 (2)."

Tzomet Postpones Ultimatum on Election Bill

TA1611074690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Nov 90 p 18

[Report by political correspondent Michal Yudelman]

[Text] Tzomet has allowed the coalition another six weeks to give its bill for direct elections of the prime minister a second and third reading. The decision, taken by Tzomet's secretariat yesterday evening, came at the request of Likud whip Sara Doron and Knesset Constitution Committee chairman Uri'el Lynn. This pushes the deadline—after which the two-member party has threatened to leave the coalition—from November 20 to December 30.

The postponement followed Lynn's explanation to the secretariat that it would be impossible for the Constitution Committee to prepare the bill in less than three months.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the secretariat said it had the impression that preparation of the bill has entered high gear.

At the same time, Tzomet sources blasted the government's agreement to pass four laws enforcing religious observance—the price demanded by Agudat Yisra'el for joining the coalition. They told THE JERUSALEM POST that the party intends to vote against these laws, since it opposes any change in the status quo in religious matters.

Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Visits

Meets Levi 15 Nov, Comments

TA1511163890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Direct flights between Israel and the USSR are very near; only minor issues still need be dealt with to complete the agreement. These were remarks made today by Professor Guriy Marchuk, a first deputy prime minister of the USSR, in a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi. In the past few weeks, David Levi has exchanged letters with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, about bilateral relations between the two countries. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman has more details:

Guriy Marchuk is the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a first deputy to the Soviet prime minister. Today, in a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi, the Soviet visitor praised the progress made in relations between the two countries. Minister Levi asked him to deliver a message to President Gorbachev calling for the implementation of the agreement on direct flights between Israel and the Soviet Union. The Soviet visitor said that he had examined the issue before he came here, and that almost all of the problems have been solved. There has been only a slight delay and the Soviet Foreign Ministry is dealing with it, Marchuk reported. The visitor also noted that he is personally in favor of the issue and will support Levi's position.

In the meeting, Foreign Minister Levi expressed his hopes that diplomatic relations between the two countries will soon be reestablished. There is an Israeli Embassy on the Nile, Levi said; why should we not have one in Moscow? The foreign minister also said at the meeting that he has exchanged letters with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze during the past few weeks. The letters dealt with bilateral Israeli-Soviet issues. Levi added that he hopes to meet Shevardnadze soon.

Meets With Shamir

TA1611115890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel is interested in cooperation with the USSR in scientific and other fields. In a meeting with Professor Guriy Marchuk, a first deputy prime minister of the USSR who is visiting Israel, Yitzhaq Shamir said he welcomes the intention to sign a science cooperation agreement between the two countries. Shamir said he wished to transmit a message to President Gorbachev expressing the hope that Israel and the USSR will reach full diplomatic relations.

Shamir on Detention of Palestinian 'Leaders'

TA1511184490 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by reporter Salman al-Tawil in Qiryat Yam on 15 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Tawil] Mr. Shamir, last week three Palestinian reporters from the territories were detained. At least two of them are considered to be local Palestinian leaders—the same leaders with whom Israel has declared it would rather hold peace negotiations. Do you not think that such detentions might delay the peace process?

[Shamir] I believe that such detentions may hasten the peace process, primarily because those people to whom you refer as reporters were not detained for their journalistic activity. In Israel there is absolute freedom to express opinions. They were detained for inciting and carrying out violence to harm the State of Israel and the Jewish nation in Israel. We have plenty of proof of that. They were detained to prevent them from continuing their harmful and dangerous activities. It is possible that they are somebody's leaders; I know that their leaders are the leaders of the PLO, headed by Saddam Husayn. We have never said that we would talk with such people, and we do not believe that we can ever attain peace with people who think the way they do.

Trailers Set Up for Immigrants in Territories

TA1611113190 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Nov 90 p 1

["Exclusive investigation" for DAVAR by Yaqir Tzur and Amir Neumann]

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has spent millions of shekels over the past few months on the purchase of hundreds of mobile homes that have been set up in settlements affiliated with Amana, the Gush Emunim settlement movement, as part of Gush Emunim's plan to exploit the immigration wave for a massive reinforcement of the Jewish population in the territories. This transpires from a special investigation for DAVAR.

The investigation also shows that the stationing of the mobile homes was not coordinated with the bodies in charge of settlement (the World Zionist Organization's [WZO] settlement department), as required by the agreement between the government and the WZO.

During the past six months, Amana has purchased approximately 300 mobile homes from the Tromasbest plant in Nahariyya. About 200 of them have already been placed in various settlements in Judaea and Samaria, solely according to the movement's considerations.

This fact was discovered during a tour of the region by one of the inspectors of the WZO's settlement department. In his conversations with the settlements' secretaries, he was told that the mobile homes were intended for new immigrants. In a letter he sent the department head, he complained that the placement of the structures was carried out without registration and without leases or any of the other requisite licenses as per the planning and construction law.

DAVAR has learned that Ya'aqov Katz, the construction and housing minister's adviser on settlement in the territories and a Gush Emunim activist, is orchestrating the campaign to beef up the settlements in the territories. Katz and a team of Gush Emunim members serve as liaison between the Construction and Housing Ministry and the various regional councils in Judaea and Samaria in everything related to construction and expansion plans.

The stationing of the mobile homes was done in secret and behind the WZO settlement department's back. Yet documents that have reached DAVAR indicate that Matityahu Drobles, the cohead of the department on behalf of the Likud, was made privy to the mobile home campaign and gave it his nodding approval. The disclosure raised a ruckus in the department. Yehi'el Leqet, the other head of the department on behalf of the Alignment, accused Drobles of deliberately withholding information from the department.

In reply to a question by DAVAR on whether he knew in advance about Amana's plan for the stationing of the mobile homes, Drobles replied: "For the record—no comment." After deliberations in the department, post factum licenses were issued for the stationing of 142 units in 26 settlements, but not before Amana Secretary General Ze'ev Hever apologized in a letter to the two department heads and promised not to operate in the future without their approval.

The head of the Rural Building and New Settlements Administration in the Construction and Housing Ministry has confirmed to DAVAR that the ministry financed the mobile home project from the 1990 budget for rural building. The Construction Ministry paid 37,500 shekels per unit. The difference between that sum and the 42,000 shekels that each unit actually costs, plus the cost of connecting the structures to the infrastructure (approximately 10,000 shekels per unit), was put up by the regional councils. Amana arranged loans for the settlements to be able to come up with the difference at a monthly rate of return of approximately 145 shekels per unit.

On 12 October 1990, Mordekhay Kostrinsky, the director general of the Jewish Agency's Land Settlement Department, toured the industrial area of the settlement of Bet Arye in the Mate Binyamin region. It turned out that one of the plots that the department had earmarked in its settlement budget for industrial buildings was taken up by 20 mobile homes that were placed there as part of Amana's mobile home campaign.

In an investigation conducted with Yitzhaq 'Ofer, the subdistrict administrator, Kostrinsky was told that the Bet Arye Local Council had decided to establish a new industrial zone jointly with the new settlement of 'Ofarim on sites belonging to the new settlements, so that Bet Arye's future industrial structures would be built on common land in 'Ofarim.

The change in the designation of the land from industrial to mobile homes was made known only to the local council. Thus, an industrial plot of land cleared thanks to an investment of tens of thousands of shekels became a mobile home park with the stroke of a pen.

Immigration Statistics Through 15 Nov Reported

TA1611090690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Nov 90 p A3

[Report by Arye Bender and Sara Friedman]

[Text] Since the beginning of the year, up to and including last night, 145,104 new immigrants have arrived in Israel, 132,245 of them from the USSR. Since the beginning of November, 10,556 new immigrants have arrived, 10,185 of whom are from the Soviet Union. These figures were reported by Uri Gordon, the head of the Aliyah and Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency.

He claimed that since the beginning of the year there has been a noticeable upward trend in aliyah from Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Poland. The number of immigrants from those countries has so far reached 2,500, but by the end of the year the figure is expected to go up to more than 3,000.

SFRY's Loncar Arrives, Meets Al-Qasim, Departs

JN1611110990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this evening for talks with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Our political affairs correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, has more details:

[Dhiyab] Al-Qasim and Loncar held an official round of talks at the Foreign Ministry building, where they reviewed Gulf crisis developments and diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful solution. Al-Qasim reviewed the constant efforts of His Majesty King Husayn to reach an honorable settlement of the crisis. He said that Jordan, which continues to make every possible effort toward this end, believes that the Nonaligned Movement should have a prominent and distinguished role in view of the principles that link the member states of this movement.

Loncar expressed the Yugoslav leadership's appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, and asked al-Qasim to convey the greetings of the Yugoslav president to his majesty.

Upon arrival at Amman airport, the Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, whose country currently chairs the Nonaligned Movement, made a statement in which he said that his current tour of the region comes as an effort by the Nonaligned Movement to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

[Begin Loncar recording in English] We have to do utmost to see all ways to find political peaceful solutions, of course on the principle of United Nations. It means in the spirit of the charter, on the principles of nonalignment, and of course within the adopted resolution of Security Council of United Nations. But my trip and all Yugoslavia, [words indistinct] current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement is to try to do to prevent the worst things [words indistinct] the war and do something what we may consider to be the way out on peaceful and political option. [end recording]

[Dhiyab] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcomed and saw off the Yugoslav guest following his several-hour visit to Amman. Also taking part in the reception and sendoff were a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials and the Yugoslav ambassador to Amman.

King Hails Al-Asad on Corrective Movement

JN1511121990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] His majesty the king sent a cable of congratulations to the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the Corrective Movement. His majesty the king wished President al-Asad good health and he wished the Syrian people more progress and prosperity.

King Gets Birthday Cables From Bahrain, Qatar

JN1511203890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received more cables of congratulations on his birthday from a number of kings and presidents of fraternal and friendly countries.

On this occasion his majesty received cables from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar; His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent of the State of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain; and Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apperent and defense minister of the State of Qatar.

Hasan Interviewed During Finland Stopover

JN1611085990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Hani al-Badri dispatch from Helsinki]

[Excerpts] On his way back from Tokyo, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan stopped over in Helsinki for some time, where he and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by Finnish Premier Harri Holkeri. Immediately after arrival, his highness the crown prince held a round of talks with Mr. Holkeri. They discussed issues of interest to the two friendly countries, and fields of joint coordination and cooperation. [passage omitted]

His Highness Crown Prince spoke with Finnish media correspondents who assembled at Helsinki airport following his highness' meeting with the Finnish premier.

[Begin recording in English] [Hasan] Gentlemen, it is a great privilege and pleasure for me to have the opportunity to meet with the prime minister and to be in Helsinki. And all I can say is that we hope that the Helsinki process can one day come to the Middle East to contribute to stability and peace. However, at this stage, I would be very happy to answer questions that you may have to ask.

[Kervinen] Your Royal Highness, Osai Kervinen, Radio Finland. Do you see any possibilities to have a new Arab summit meeting now proposed by King Hassan?

[Hasan] I do not know about a summit meeting as such, but certainly Arab capitals are in consultation. Our hope is that if such a meeting were to take place, whether with His Majesty King Hassan's proposal or in any other formula, that it could be a meeting to address the full implementation of United Nations Security Council's resolutions which by definition means to address a peaceful outcome to this crisis to avert war. However, if the meeting is to be once again to beat the drums of war, to condemn Iraq for its action, which United Nations resolutions—10 of them—have done incessantly for the last 100 days or more, and to pave the way to war, God

forbid, then this would be a very tragic situation indeed that Arabs should meet to contribute to a devastating conflagration in our region. And that Pandora's box is something that would make this already violent zone incalculable in terms in terms of its fallout. We believe that stability should be based on people, and not only states and armies. And it is for this reason that my country, I think, has taken so much punishment over these last two months.

[Kervinen] Now, what is the official reply of Jordan to the invitation to the summit?

[Hasan] The subject is still under consideration. We have not closed any doors. We have not, however, heard—if I am correct—any official statements from countries in the region. The Iraqis have said that they believe that a comprehensive discussion of issues should be the summit agenda. And as we have said in terms of the term comprehensive, we believe clearly in the implementation of all Security Council—and I repeat, all Security Council—resolutions. However, there is no question of linking the Gulf crisis in terms of simultaneous timing or of diluting the Gulf crisis or diverting the Gulf crisis by referring to the Palestine question as such. However, the principle of withdrawal, we feel, should be sequentially one after the other addressed. If a withdrawal takes place from Kuwait and an end of an annexation takes place, then clearly the Palestine question has to be addressed. And for that matter, the visit of a special envoy of the secretary general to the occupied Palestinian territories is one of the steps—a small step, maybe too late, but a small step anyway—to give some hope that this older outstanding problem has not been forgotten by the international community.

[Reporter] Your highness, [name indistinct], ten o'clock news. How do you estimate chances to avert the war in Gulf crisis at this moment?

[Hasan] I am not a betting man, and would not like to sound frivolous on a subject which is so deadly serious. We are technically the killing ground if a war takes place—Israel on the one side, Iraq on the other. And would like to say that the additional movement of United States troops to bring up the troop level to half a million soldiers raises many questions. There is a debate, as you know, in the United States. We were interested to see that the mid-term elections barely touched on the war. However, in the media, I think many questions are being raised. Is this additional troop presence going to pressure Iraq towards a political solution? We think that Iraq—as his majesty said in a NEWSWEEK interview only today—we think that the Iraqis are still interested in the principle of withdrawal, provided they are given assurance of no hostility after a withdrawal from Kuwait. However, if the intention is to follow through to destroy Iraq because Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction, then that leaves very little option for the Iraqis. We say by all means remove weapons of mass destruction from the region, but remove all weapons of destruction from the region, apply an embargo of the sale of weapons to all countries in the region, and let us get down to the business of rebuilding the Middle East, away from special interests and bilateralism.

[Kervinen] Could you please tell us about your discussions with Prime Minister Holkeri? What were the main items, please?

[Hasan] As you know, Madame [Marjatta] Rasi today is a key figure in the Security Council. We appreciate Finland's contribution to the Security Council and to this session. We also appreciate Finland's ongoing record of contribution to multilateral action, and in particular to humanitarian assistance to my country, which, as you know, has had to process over three-quarters of a million evacuees during these last two months. And in the context of a further contribution—a last chance for peace—we rely on Finland and many other friendly voices in this world. We rely of course on the P-5 [reference to 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council] to exercise its responsibilities in a full implementation of Security Council resolutions and we think, as I said, that the spirit of Helsinki should one day come in a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East region as it has come to Europe.

[Kervinen] Your royal highness, thank you.

[Hasan] Thank you all very much. [end recording]

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan is scheduled to take part in the special conference by the states economically hit by the Gulf crisis, which will be held under the supervision of the UN Security Council on 17 November in Paris.

Negotiations Without 'Outside Pressures' Urged

JN1511102990 Amman THE STAR in English 15-21 Nov 90 p 8

["Our Say...." Column: "Cornerstone for Solidarity"]

[Text] The Moroccan call for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to discuss the Gulf crisis and agree to an Arab solution based on international legality to it must be given strong support from all parties involved including Western powers. The call, made by King Hassan, comes at a time when fresh US troops are being dispatched to the Gulf and when a military confrontation to be initiated by the United States is taking over all attempts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the three-month-old problem.

Iraq's initial reaction was encouraging, to say the least. While we wait for the response of other parties especially the Saudis, the Egyptians and the Kuwaitis, we are reminded of the dismal alternatives now being marketed by the United States and Britain, and which will bring disaster to the Middle East if not the whole world.

There are a number of basic issues which must be taken into consideration if and when the Arab leaders meet. Foremost among these is the fact that the Gulf crisis

boils down to an inter-Arab dispute that was intentionally blown out of all possible proportion through the massive foreign build-up of troops in the Gulf countries. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, illegitimate as it may seem, is a result of an Iraqi-Kuwaiti border dispute that goes many years back and has its historical roots. Therefore, while there has to be an agreement on the basics, a consensus must also be reached on the causes and remedies of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

But for this to take place, the Arabs, including the Saudis, the Kuwaitis and other Gulf people, will have to make it clear to the rest of the world that there is room for negotiations away from outside pressures.

We believe those who invited American troops to defend them from an exaggerated make-belief threat are now aware of America's true goals in the region. American national interests in the Gulf have nothing to do with upholding international legality and safeguarding the rights of weaker nations as has been proved by America's duplicity on the Palestinian question and the recent Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people.

Even the American people are now questioning their leadership's true goals and intentions in the region. In the end, Arab national interests will clash with those heralded by the White House and 10 Downing Street.

If the Arab summit is to take place it must not be allowed to become another cover for legitimizing American covert objectives in the region. The outcome of the Cairo summit on 10 August is a grim reminder of this possiblity.

An Arab solution which Iraq and many Arab countries are demanding is in fact a framework for inter-Arab co-operation to meet a declared set of goals. These goals transcend the immediate pressures of the Gulf crisis and the foreign occupation of Arab lands to set out a definite course of action to tackle the rest of the region's conflicts.

The summit, which Iraq and other Arab countries are looking for, is one that will consider the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict in the light of much graver developments in our region. Solving the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute should provide the cornerstone on which true Arab solidarity should be built.

Bush Urged to Heed Advice of Arab Leaders

JN1611103790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
16 Nov 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Bush's Tour"]

[Text] President Bush today begins a European and Arab tour aimed at signing a conventional weapons reduction treaty and an East-West nonaggression pact during the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Paris. During the tour he will also spend the Thanksgiving holiday with U.S. troops in the Gulf and hold talks with a number of Arab leaders before returning to Washington. Observers agree that the Gulf crisis will take up a major part of Bush's discussions with the European and Arab leaders he will be meeting with. This means that Bush will attempt to strengthen the alliance against Iraq, or at least to maintain its cohesion. In light of this speculation, which has become more likely, Bush should heed the voice of reason, even from the Arab leaders with whom he will meet. This voice must call on him to make peace and not war the objective to seek in the Gulf, and must convince him that a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis is the realistic option which he must accept and support. Needless to say, those leaders realize the dangers posed to the region if a war is ignited by the United States. They also realize that any strike at Iraq will effectively be a real blow to the entire Arab nation. Thus, even if they have a certain view toward the crisis, they should not abandon the pan-Arab necessity of maintaining the strength of Iraq, which enables the Arabs to have a place in the new world order. They should not allow the major conflict in the region, represented by the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and the resistance of this people, to be overshadowed by the Gulf crisis. Therefore, we sincerely say that these leaders are called upon to ask Bush to adopt the same position and course of action on the Palestine question as the one being taken on the Gulf crisis. If the U.S. President does this, then it will not be difficult to reach a fair solution to the crisis in line with international legitimacy, which in turn should have a say in settling the Palestine question.

The Arab leaders who will meet with Bush necessarily bear a major pan-Arab responsibility. Hopefully, they will not talk with Bush as adversaries of Iraq, but as advocates of a comprehensive, genuine peace in the entire region. Such a peace can only be achieved through the restoration of the occupied Arab land in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan, and reaching a peaceful settlement in the Gulf.

Bush's tour of the Arab region deserves to be met with extreme caution, and deserves to be met by the Arab leaders who will meet with the U.S. President with a performance that matches the pan-Arab responsibility they are bearing.

Mini-Summit Urged To Prepare for Arab Summit

JN1511133090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
15 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "To Make the Proposed Summit a Success"]

[Text] Now that the beating of the drums has died down and the sharp tone of war statements from Washington has greatly decreased, it seems that the option of a political solution to the crisis in the Gulf has started to make some progress, especially after the Moroccan call for a summit, which has brought about, and continues to bring about, Arab and international diplomatic activity of various types and aspects.

There is no doubt that moving away from the atmosphere of tension, threats, and declarations is an indispensable condition for opening the way to all parties concerned in the Gulf crisis, even, it seems, on the part of the United States.

Perhaps vigorous Arab action in more than one sisterly capital could, in the final analysis, develop a formula for progress in making the proposed summit secure and safe, especially since summits that were convened without due preparation in the past, especially the Cairo summit, fragmented the Arab stance and failed to achieve their desired objectives.

Therefore, we call for a mini-Arab summit within whose framework a bridging of the gap between stands can take place and viewpoints can be brought closer among the Arab parties directly concerned in this crisis. This will undoubtedly lead to an expanded summit without surprises or precautions.

This is because, if a summit is convened without prior preparation, or without negotiation and coordination of viewpoints, stands, and opinions, it is possible that the summit will fail. This failure could then be employed to serve the aggressive foreign schemes in a way that serves their hidden intentions to strike fraternal Iraq.

The decrease in war threats and the emergence of more restrictions on Washington's decision to go to war should encourage the Arabs once again to revive the option of an Arab solution, which would then remove the crisis from the hands of the Western alliance and place it in more appropriate atmospheres to crystallize a formula that answers the demands of all sides and preserves the rights of everyone without losing anything.

Iranian Hostages' Relatives To Meet Officials

NC1511150590 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 15 (AFP)—In a move seen as likely to speed release of the last three Britons held hostage in Lebanon, relatives of Iranians who went missing here eight years ago were to meet with key Lebanese officials Thursday.

Sources at the Iranian Embassy said the delegation, two couples and a child, were to hold talks with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Beirut's Maronite Bishop, Khalil Abi-Nadir.

Since they arrived Tuesday, they have already met Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalists, Husayn al-Musawi, head of the Islamic Amal, and parliamentary speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

Lebanese Shiite sources have said the mission may encourage kidnappers to release the last three British nationals held here, Anglican Church emissary Terry Waite, journalist John McCarthy, and retired pilot Jack Mann.

British Ambassador David Tatham has said he is "optimistic" they will be freed soon.

However, the Iranians' main goal is to find out what happened to three Iranian diplomats and an Iranian news photographer who disappeared during the Israeli invasion of July, 1982.

Tehran claims they were kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces Christian militia and are still alive. It has demanded information on the four in exchange for helping to arrange the release of Western hostages.

Militia leader Samir Ja'ja' has said they were killed and promised to provide proof.

Qabalan Promises To Help

LD1611085190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Families of the Iranian hostage diplomats, who have been in captivity with the Phalangist forces of Lebanon for the past eight years, held a press conference in Beirut yesterday and asked for an intensified effort to determine the fate of their relatives. The wife of the Iranian former charge d'affaires in Beirut, on behalf of the families of the hostage, called upon the authorities and public opinion of Lebanon and the world to perform their duties toward these innocent captives.

On the basis of a report received, the families of the Iranian hostages met with the Ja'fari mufti of Lebanon, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, yesterday evening and asked for his assistance toward securing the release of their relatives. In the course of this meeting, Shaykh Qabalan said that the government of Lebanon is fully responsible for pursuing and determing the fate of these brothers, and that he will strive with every means toward this objective.

Coverage of Withdrawal From Iqlim al-Tuffah

Convoy Leaves for City

NC1211123790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A meeting was held at the headquarters of the Syrian observers in al-Rumaylah near Sidon at 0830 today. The meeting was attended by Colonel Ziyad [surname not given], head of the Syrian observers in the South; Mr. Maysam [surname not given], head of Hizballah's security committee; a representative of the civil defense unit in the al-Risalah Boy Scouts; and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. During the meeting, it was agreed to take steps to send a Red Cross convoy to Iqlim al-Tuffah to evacuate the wounded.

In fact, our correspondent has quoted ICRC sources as saying that a convoy of nine ambulances and four trucks loaded with foodstuffs set out at 1215 from Sidon to Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

Convoy Arrives, Distributes Food

NC1611080890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] A meeting was held at the Syrian observers' headquarters in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' yesterday. It was attended by Syrian observers Colonel Ziyad and Major 'Ali, representatives of the Amal Movement and Hizballah, and a representative of the Iranian embassy in Damascus. The discussion dealt with the means to consolidate the cease-fire agreement along the combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the exchange of prisoner lists.

International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] cars carrying technicians entered Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday to repair the water pipes there. ICRC trucks distributed 800 portions of food in Sarba and ('Abqun) at 1100 yesterday.

Meanwhile, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni received Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian military intelligence, in Lebanon yesterday. They discussed the current situation and developments in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Palestinians Told To Leave

NC1511152090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] This afternoon REUTER cited Lieutenant Colonel 'Ala', the official in charge of the Palestinian camps in Sidon, as saying that Palestinian armed elements deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been instructed to withdraw to facilitate the Lebanese Army's entry into the region.

Official Denies Refusal To Withdraw

NC1511153390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Palestinian official Zayd Wahbah [political leader of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement in Lebanon] this afternoon denied that he had announced that Palestinians would not withdraw from Iqlim al-Tuffah. He reiterated the PLO's support for the Lebanese legitimacy.

A Palestinian spokesman has said that the Palestinian forces are willing to withdraw. He added: We have not been asked to do so. However, everything can be settled through dialogue, he said.

Incidents Concerning Greater Beirut Plan Reported

Mansur Views Implementation

NC1511174490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss met at noon today with Defense Minister Mansur and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. They reviewed the stages of implementing the Greater Beirut plan and the Army's arrangements to assume the security tasks in Greater Beirut.

Minister Mansur said that the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan is proceeding well and according to plan. He expected that the operation will be successfully completed before the evening of 19 November. He reiterated that the Army deployment will take place amicably but the assumption of security tasks will take place not amicably but according to law. He praised the full response and cooperation shown by all parties despite certain mishaps.

Birri Urges State To Finish Plan

NC1511183290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader and minister, has stressed that the Greater Beirut plan is a great step but is only the beginning. He noted that the Greater Beirut plan is proceeding slowly but firmly and continuously. He said that after the Greater Beirut plan has been completed, he believes that the plan will collapse if the Army does not proceed to the South. He reiterated that the restoration of the legitimate government is the greatest service to the militias because it will help cleanse them.

Birri said that there is a great difference between past experience in Greater Beirut and the current situation, because since 1975 there has been no political and security coordination in Lebanon until now. He noted that there has been a qualitative change and rapproachment between Hizballah and the Amal Movement because of their new ideas, which would really help in establishing a security and political accord.

Birri pointed out that it is not too late to form a new government that includes Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'. He stressed that the legitimate government is supposed to complete the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan, begin to dissolve the militias, and proceed to the South. He made this statement in an interview with Radio Lebanon [Beirut Domestic Service] on the "Hot Issues" program featured this afternoon.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 15 November carries a report on the interview which adds: "In the interview, Birri said that Ja'ja' is committed to implementing all steps which will lead to a solution. Birri maintained that Ja'ja' has no ties with Israel and that the meeting between Ja'ja' and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, is part of the ongoing efforts to achieve a solution.

["During the interview, Minister Birri dwelt on public services issues, particularly those pertaining to water and electricity."]

'Ja'Ja Conditions Withdrawal

NC1611090990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] In an interview with AFP Lebanese Forces Commander, Dr. Samir Ja'ja' stressed that Greater Beirut should be immediately followed by the formation of a national accord government as stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement. He pointed out that the appointment of deputies prior to the formation of the said government runs counter to the spirit of the al-Ta'if agreement.

In the interview Dr. Ja'ja' said that it would be better to speed up the consolidation of the state's authority over all of Lebanon first and then hold legislative elections. He noted that those who participated in the war are capable of working out a solution in Lebanon. He added: We are ready to withdraw our military presence from al-Ashrafiyah but we will have to wait until we regain our centers in al-Matn. We can wait 48 hours or even three or four days.

Dr. Ja'ja' went on to say that it is impossible to withdraw from al-Ashrafiyah and hand it over to the other militias. We will only withdraw in favor of the Lebanese Army and I have received guarantees from the legitimate authority in this regard, Dr. Ja'ja' maintained.

In the interview the Lebanese Forces commander declared that it is impermissible to allow other organizations to open political offices in al-Ashrafiyah during the first stage. When we can open offices throughout Lebanon, then the others will be allowed to do so, and not before that. He said: Our withdrawal is purely military and we will continue to pursue political actions in al- Ashrafiyah.

Dr. Ja'ja' pointed out that the Lebanese Army units which will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah will be drawn from the units deployed in the Christian area, units that have not participated in the clashes between the Lebanese

Forces and General 'Awn's brigades. He called for resolving the issue of the militias but not disbanding them. Dr. Ja'ja' said that the main problem lies in the establishment of a real state, for the emergence of the militias was due to the absence of the state.

In his interview Dr. Ja'ja' said: If from now until 21 March 1991 we should have a strong state and an effective government, then the issue of militias will be resolved easily. The militias could be merged into the Army, into the internal security forces, or into a national guard.

Ja'Ja' Interview Called 'Inaccurate'

NC1611114790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Information Department in Beirut on 16 November]

[Text] AFP has attributed certain remarks to Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' in its report on an interview it conducted with him. The Lebanese Forces Information Department wishes to make it clear that part of the AFP report of the interview is inaccurate and based more on guesswork by AFP rather than on the statements of Dr. Ja'ja'. The interview was shortened and distorted in the AFP report, and therefore failed to convey the Lebanese Forces' true position.

Hubayqah, SSNP Commit Violations

NC1611083690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] On the eve of the completion of the Greater Beirut plan, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] and Hubayqah's groups have continued to commit violations in the two al-Matn regions.

SSNP members stormed and looted houses in al-Dubbiyah. Unidentified gunmen closed the road leading to upper al-Dubbiyah under the pretext that it is a military road, and citizens were prevented from reaching their homes. SSNP members occupied the al-Furn building at Qurnat Shahwan and warned the building's owner against lodging a complaint against them. SSNP members also threw several hand grenades and fired intensive gunfire bursts at houses belonging to the Tawq family in Ru'aysat al-Judaydah two days ago. They also stormed a house belonging to the al-Barqashi family in the same area, beat up its occupants, and kidnapped Ilyas al-Barqashi.

Meanwhile, Hubayqah's group stormed houses in al-Dikwanah and al-Rawdah. It has been learned that Hubayqah's gunmen are driving a yellow van and are engaged in looting and kidnapping. These gunmen include 'Imad Murshid al-Ahmar, Mark Shamma'ah, Serje Abu-Tabiq, Tanius Ni'mah, As'ad Tawq, and George Abu Haydar. Joseph al-Asmar [not further identified] has instructed Hubayqah's gunmen, who had withdrawn from the Phalangist Furm al-Shubbak section, to reassemble at his family home in the same area.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Higher Council has instructed Sa'adah al-Tum to create an armed center in Ra's al-Dikwanah. In al-Hazimiyah a Mercedes-230, license plate number 115954, that belongs to Maurice Hanna Yisha' was stolen.

Violations Continue in Al-Matn

NC1511212590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Observer security sources have wondered about the position of the two newly established armed centers in Ru'aysat al-Judaydah belonging to Hubayqah and of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Emergency Command [SSNPEC], especially since the establishment of these two centers has been followed by an organized campaign to uproot the area's Christian residents from their houses and accommodate gunmen in their place. The principal motivators of such subversive activity include Mahmud Qataya, 'Adnan Qataya, Malik Fu'ani, 'Ali al-Hilu, and Husayn Ardahi.

Despite the security committee's measures, transgressions and violations continue in the two al-Matn areas. The following incidents took place recently:

SSNPEC members, who infiltraded Ru'aysat al-Judaydah two nights ago, detonated an explosive device outside a house in the area to forcibly compel the occupants to leave their house.

Munir 'Awn, a member of Hubayqah's group, opened fire at the Tawq family's house in Ru'aysat al-Judaydah.

At 2130 two nights ago, unidentified gunmen hurled a hand grenade under an Opel parked on al-Fawwar Street in Sadd al-Bawshariyah.

An armed group kidnapped Dr. Samir Yusuf Karam as he was traveling in his black Buick from his house in Dahr al-Sawwan to his clinic in Sadd al-Bawshariyah. Eyewitnesses reported that the armed group, which was driving a BMW-2002, forced Dr. Karam to alter his usual travel route.

Hubayqah's gunmen stole the Mercedes-230 belonging to Shafiq al- Huwayyik, mayor of Bdadun, from outside his house.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—The Higher Council is trying to firmly establish itself in northern al-Matn within the framework of its acute conflict with the SSNPEC. In a related incident, Ilyas al-Tum has been charged with confiscating an apartment in the Jall al-Dhi'b-al-Zalqa' area in order to establish an armed center in it. It has been learned that the SSNPEC has instructed its representative in coastal al-Matn to collect $3,000 by imposing fees on commercial and industrial establishments in northern al-Matn.

Kidnappings Reported in Al-Matn

NC1411100790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Despite the legitimate authorities' measures in the two al-Matn areas, acts of aggression by the Hubayqah and Syrian Social Nationalist Party are continuing, thus raising a question about how effective these measures are and about the state's seriousness in dealing with this awkward situation.

On Sunday, 11 November 1990, the Hubayqah group kidnapped citizen Elie Nabhan from his home in Sadd al-Bawshariyah. Nabhan was beaten and tortured all day before he was released. He was released after the administration of an active embassy intervened because he was a guard in the embassy.

According to security reports, citizen Fathi al-Haj, who occupies an apartment in a building owned by citizen Fawzi al-Ashqar in Bayt al-Fisco area, has been kidnapped from his home and has not returned yet.

SLA Prevents 'Terrorist' Infiltration in Zone

TA1611085890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Early this morning, troops belonging to the SLA [South Lebanese Army] prevented the infiltration of a terrorist squad into the western sector of the security zone. The SLA soldiers shot at the terrorists, who were seen fleeing the area. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that hand grenades and flak jackets, probably belonging to the terrorists, were found at the scene.

SLA Kill Security Zone Resident 15 Nov

TA1611115190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] A resident of the security zone in southern Lebanon was killed last night by shots fired by the SLA [South Lebanese Army] after trying to flee into the al-Biqa'. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the man was imprisoned until recently at al-Khiyam prison for involvement in hostile activity. He did not heed SLA calls to halt, so the soldiers fired at him and killed him.

'Routine' SLA Operation North of Zone Reported

TA1411111290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] unit operated last night in the central sector, north of the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from SLA headquarters that the operation consisted of routine activity in an area where terrorist attacks are habitually planned and launched. The unit, which encountered no opposition, returned to its base.

Our correspondent further reports that last night, a katyusha was fired at an SLA position on the security zone border. There were no casualties.

SLA Operate Against 'Terrorists' in Jazzin

TA1211182590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Force] unit operated today against terrorists in the Jazzin sector north of the security zone. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorists encountered by the SLA fled northwards. There are no casualties among the SLA.

Hizballah Commentary Warns of 'Perils of War'

NC1611100290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Political commentary: "The War That Some Arabs Favor"]

[Excerpts] It is sad to hear some Arabs make a hasty case for war against Iraq, for these are the same Arabs who used to make a hasty case for peace with the Zionist entity. It is sad to see some Arabs enter into an alliance with the United States to destroy Iraq or thwart its aggression, for these are the same Arabs who never convinced Washingon to act against the Zionist aggression. It is equally sad that some Arabs think that Washington is helping the Arabs in their crisis. The truth is that Washington is using the current crisis to fortify its influence in the region and strengthen the position of its favorite ally, Israel. [passage omitted]

Do these Arabs understand the meaning of war against Iraq? Do they understand the consequences and results of such a war? Some may think that, once started, that war will end before the sunset on the same day and that by the dawn of next day everything will return to normal.

Perhaps these Arabs think that Washington has sent its troops to the region to make Saddam back down, and that once this mission is accomplished we will simply say thank you and Washington will pull out its troops.

Perhaps these Arabs think that following the war the map will be restored to its previous form. Unfortunately, anyone with enough sense to comprehend the perils of war knows that the consequences will be grave for all, particularly the Arabs and the Muslims. What borders will be retained after the bloodshed begins? What Arab wealth and oil will be left to the Arabs by the end of the war? How can we delude ourselves into thinking that Washington will be satisfied by a mere thank you and will pull out its troops. We know full well that Washington has only sent its troops to the region to further its ambitions and defend its interests. It pains us to see Kuwait lost, but through war we will lose more than Kuwait. War will deprive us of our entire freedom and independence, our dignity and pride, and all that is

sacred to us. War will cost us the oil and our control over it. War will cost us, besides Kuwait, other emirates and kingdoms.

These are not opinions derived from any love for Saddam or desire to defend him, nor do we endorse the occupation of Kuwait, but we warn of greater evils to come. One greater evil is that we may replace Iraq's occupation of Kuwait with an eternal U.S. occupation of the entire region. Another greater evil is that our hatred of Saddam may lead us to shake hands with Israel and cooperate with it within a regional security system sponsored by Washington. A third greater evil is that we may lose everything, not just Kuwait. [passage omitted]

We do not believe that war is the only possible method to deter Saddam. Other means are still available and have not yet been exhausted. The existing embargo is the most important of these means. Another means is dialogue, why do we not try it? Why do we enter into dialogue with the Zionist entity and not with Iraq. Why do we not seek to persuade the Iraqi people that Saddam is a criminal and that he has led them into an endless tunnel? Why do we insist on making the Iraqi people pay the price for Saddam's crimes, instead of making a serious effort to bring these people over to our side and to stand against Saddam's arrogance?

Do you think that the Iraqi people are incapable of thwarting Saddam's misguided and tyrannical policies? Give the Iraqi people the chance, assist them, and you will discover their abilities. The wrath against Saddam is going to grow. Do not urge war and threaten to wage it, for war will force everyone to stand by Saddam's side, and you may end up turning him into a national hero.

Fadlallah Examines Developments in Lebanon

NC1611152190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the United States is acting to freeze the Lebanese crisis so as to appeal to the Lebanese psychological atmosphere. This is intended to prompt the people to remove the parties that may think of rebellion. [as heard]

In a statement to the Voice of the Mountain, Fadlallah emphasized that the Lebanese issue is linked to the regional situation. He said that past events in Lebanon, both the political and military conflicts, were conflicts of other parties, who have ambitions in Lebanon or are connected to certain embassies. They sought to use Lebanese aspirations as a springboard to implement their schemes in this country. He pointed out that none of the Lebanese problems can be solved except through regional or international efforts because Lebanon is an arena for all schemes. He said: I do not claim that this is a matter of fate for the Lebanese people or that they have reached the point of being incapable of addressing their problems. The problem lies is that they have incapacitated themselves and have given in to indulging their tense and negative feelings.

Fadlallah said that the 13 October operation [removal of General 'Awn] constitutes the phase of the fall of the French political line and perhaps the European one in Lebanon in favor of the U.S., which will act to arrange all areas of the Lebanese situation in the United States' interest, thus making Lebanon a new arena in the upcoming stage of regional moves is in line with U.S. policy.

On the Israeli role, Fadlallah said that the equation desired for Lebanon is that it must not be confined to one regional Arab sphere but that Israel should be a partner in all areas. Therefore, in light of the Syrian role—or rather the Syrian era—Israel wants to give a certain impression, perhaps through certain secret U.S. hints or through an understanding with America, that Israel exists and can foil all the Lebanese Government's steps by declaring that the Lebanese Army will not be allowed to enter Jazzin. He stressed that Israel still exists and still draws red lines here and there.

Hizballah Figures on Agreement, Army Deployment

NC1011085090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the recent Damascus agreement between Hizballah and Amal is the appropriate agreement for which we have been waiting and that it came at the proper time and place. Noting that those who patronized the agreement are serious about it, he called on those who signed it to fulfill their pledge as the importance of the agreement lies in its implementation.

Yesterday in his Friday sermon, his eminence said that those who are harmed by the agreement, notably the Zionist entity, will try to prevent its implementation as indicated by their talk of red lines that must not be crossed, their declaration that the state should not enter Jazzin, and their shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages.

He called for implementing the agreement to keep any opportunity from the enemy and to allow all people to return to their homes.

His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general, asserted that Syria has guaranteed the Hizballah-Amal agreement's implementation. In an exclusive interview with our radio, his eminence said that in addition to the guarantee, a quadripartite committee is charged with the task of implementing the agreement, noting that this was lacking when the previous agreement was made.

His eminence added: We have submitted our views on the mechanism of implementing the agreement. Certainly I am not promising the people anything and saying to them that you can return to your homes because the

problems have been resolved. However, we must work together to implement the agreement. Good results do not come all by themselves without hard work.

Addressing the citizens, his eminence said: I tell these good, struggling people and those who have faithful and patient hearts, who were wounded by painful incidents, and who suffered through the ordeal, that we have no objective save the satisfaction of God Almighty. His satisfaction will come from the satisfaction of the oppressed and the faithful. We devote ourselves to their service, dignity, and pride. We will work hard to end this blind sedition. I ask each person to help us within the limits of his ability, because the agreement needs the help of every person to implement it, to rebuild what was destroyed, to purify hearts, and to close the gap among the brothers.

Al-Tufayli thanked the Iranian and Syrian leaderships, particularly the leader Khamene'i, the two countries' Presidents Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and al-Asad, and all those made efforts to heal the wounds, particularly our earnest people in Lebanon. He said: We tell them, we will not forget our gratitude to them. We ask them to continue their efforts.

On the resistance fighters' future, Hizballah's secretary general said that the agreement provides them with better circumstances and abilities to carry out their resistance. He added that we should expect the resistance to flourish in the future.

Regarding the Army's deployment in the South and the future of the resistance after this deployment, his eminence affirmed that the Army command has said a lot about coordinating efforts with the resistance movement. He said this is basic, and the Army will not be an obstacle to the resistance which liberates the land but must support it.

His eminence remarked that those who want to be Lebanese citizens serving their homeland must be resistance fighters and must cooperate with those who fight the Israeli enemy, because it is the resistance that will put medals on their chests. He declared: Because of this belief, we are not at all worried about the fate and future of the resistance. As long as there is an Israeli enemy on our land, we do not believe that there is anyone who is not concerned with the welfare of the resistance.

Committee Meets To Discuss Amal-Hizballah Accord

NC1011182490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The joint follow-up committee in charge of implementing the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah began meeting in Beirut today after Iranian Ambassador to Syria Hasan Akhtari arrived in the Lebanese capital before noon today.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an is representing Syria at the meeting, which is also being attended by delegations from the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur received a Hizballah delegation which briefed them on the Damascus agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The discussion also dealt with ways to contribute to the success of the Greater Beirut plan. Under the agreement, the two parties are expected to begin consolidating the cease-fire. This is to be followed by the evacuation of the wounded, the supply of foodstuffs and water, the withdrawal of armed men, and the exchange of prisoners. After these measures are completed, which is expected to be by the middle of next week, citizens will be allowed to enter the area [Iqlim al-Tuffah].

Right To Demand Compensation From Israel Studied

NC1211123990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has asked Foreign Ministry Adviser Dr. George Dib to prepare a legal and political study on Lebanon's right to demand compensation from Israel as a result of its repeated attacks on Lebanon and its continuing occupation of parts of Lebanese territory. This study will be given to the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

U.S., UN Missions Briefed on Israeli Threats

NC0911094990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received Deputy Munif al-Khatib this morning. Deputy al-Khatib briefed Dr. al-Huss on the current grave situation in the South. He said that the Israeli occupation authorities imposed a siege on the township of Shab'a and other villages in the region when the towns refused to cooperate with the occupation and establish the so-called civil administration. Deputy al-Khatib added that this Israeli move and the threats made by the enemy defense minister are all extremely serious matters.

Acting on instructions from Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, the Foreign Ministry today contacted Lebanon's permanent mission at the United Nations and the Lebanese Embassy in Washington and instructed them to acquaint the U.S. Administration and the representatives of major powers with the serious situation resulting from the Israeli defense minister's statements yesterday. In his statements, the Israeli minister said that Israel will not allow the Lebanese Government to regain control of Jazzin.

The Foreign Ministry briefed the two Lebanese missions on the latest Israeli attacks on Lebanon, particularly the siege imposed on a number of villages in al-'Urqub area.

40 Lebanese Forces Members Trained in Iraq

NC1611105690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Our radio revealed yesterday that 40 members of the Lebanese Forces, commanded by Major Jack Jovisian, returned from Baghdad where they received training on helicopters.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Militia, Casualty Reported

NC1611122090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] A 90-minute ferocious battle broke out at dawn today between resistance fighters and agent Lahd militias near the Zummarayya gate, north of Hasbayya. The resistance fighters used machine guns and rockets in the fighting.

The agents radio reported the attack and said that a resistance fighter was killed in the operation. The radio added that a militia force, supported by three armored cars, combed the suburbs of Mimas and ('Ayn Yashur) shortly after the operation and found the body of the resistance fighter. As usual, the radio made no mention of any militia casualties.

'Awn Funds From Government House Taken to Bank

NC1411152590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has stated that the funds in the Ba'bda Government House's safe deposit room have been inventoried. The room was was used by former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn to deposit public funds which he collected from the citizens. The inventory showed that the room contained U.S. $1.734 million and 1.800 billion Lebanese pounds [equivalent to approximately U.S. $2.5 million at current Beirut exchange rate]. These funds were transported to the main office of the Central Bank of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Minister Says No Government Reshuffle Planned

JN1011161290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Information Minister Edmond Rizq by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] The Lebanese Army is expected to take control of the militia positions today. Are there any problems in implemeting this decision?

[Rizq] No. In fact, there is understanding and clarity in the government's position, which renders obstacles nonexistent. They are being removed naturally and automatically, because the mere taking of the decision by the Lebanese Government made all the brothers understand that there is no scope for anyone to hamper this plan. Therefore, we can say that we are not coming up against any noteworthy obstacles. There are merely some procedural issues.

[Correspondent] Dr. Edmond, what has happened regarding the new government, or reports that there might be a new government coming up?

[Rizq] Actually, there was talk about a government reshuffle, expansion, or change. The issue is not under discussion at the moment, however, because this government is performing its duty and has so far done what it has been asked, as far as the implementation of the national charter document is concerned, starting with approving the constitutional amendments and political reforms, and moving on to all the other things stipulated in the national reconciliation charter.

In other words, the issue of changing or expanding the government is not an urgent matter, even if there is a tendency to add some brothers to this government so that we can reinforce expanded representation. However, there is absolutely no doubt about the comprehensive and representational character of this government since it is the national reconciliation government that was stipulated in the al-Ta'if agreement. The government issue is therefore not an issue to be dealt with now, although it has been an issue under discussion, no more. [passage omitted]

PLO's Khalaf Urges Government To Open Dialogue

NC1011172990 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 10 (AFP)—A senior PLO official urged the Lebanese government on Saturday to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation to avoid an armed conflict in southern Lebanon. Salah Khalaf issued his call in an interview published by Al-Shira' newspaper on Day 1 of a plan by the Lebanese government to reunite Beirut and its suburbs under control of the army.

"The Lebanese state must launch a dialogue with the PLO to avoid a tragedy in southern Lebanon, that is, a war between Palestinians and the Lebanese Army," said Mr. Khalaf, whose nom-de-guerre is Abu-Iyad. He said Syria could broker such talks.

Abu Iyad also accused the administration of Syrian-backed President Ilyas al-Hirawi of provocation for "failing to start a dialogue with the PLO, ignoring the Palestinian issue and wanting to implement unilateral decisions." Mr. al-Hirawi said earlier this month that he was opposed to any bilateral agreement with the PLO as part of efforts to rid Lebanon of militias in favour of the Lebanese Army.

The PLO has some 10,000 armed guerrillas in the south of Lebanon, a country where 350,000 Palestinian civilians live mainly in refugee camps. The plan to reunify Beirut is part of the Arab-brokered al-Ta'if agreement,

but although the accord urged the disbanding of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, it failed to specifically refer to the PLO.

"The PLO is attached to two principles: the unity of Lebanon and the extension of the central authority over all Lebanese territory," Mr. Khalaf said. "Under such conditions, a dialogue with the Lebanese government can only lead to an agreement."

Syria's Al-Asad Conveys Support to Al-Hirawi

NC1211122690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad spoke on the telephone today. They exchanged views on the developments in the region, especially the delicate situation in the Arabian Gulf and the call by King Hassan II of Morocco for an Arab summit. On Lebanese issues, President al-Asad stressed Syria's determination to help Lebanon in its march toward peace and toward establishing state authority in Greater Beirut as a first stage and toward finding solutions for the militias in a very short time.

Analysis Confirms Cholera Epidemic in North

NC1611131990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Laboratory analysis of samples taken from patients in 'Akkar and Tripoli today confirmed that the epidemic that spread in the northern areas and caused death and illness is cholera. The disease was caused by polluted drinking water, particularly in the 'Akkar District. Diarrhea, vomiting, and a drop in blood pressure also confirmed this. A state of emergency has been declared in all the medical establishments in 'Akkar and the north to confront this contagious disease.

Health Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi said that the vaccines and medicines that are necesary for treatment could not be sent to the north yesterday due to a transportation shortage. Al-Rasi received a call from the 'Akkar District officer telling him that only 800 bags of vaccine have arrived in 'Akkar whereas the hospitals in the area require over 2,000 such bags.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Resume Talks on Gulf

NC1511112890 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1043 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 15 Nov (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad resumed their third round of talks at noon today in Damascus. During the meeting, the two presidents will complete their discussion of all the aspects of the Gulf crisis and the region, and the efforts to avoid a military confrontation. The two presidents will also discuss the remaining issues dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote, consolidate, and develop them.

President Mubarak received Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar at the president's residence in Tishrin Palace this morning. President Mubarak and the Yugoslav official discussed the developments in the Gulf crisis and bilateral relations between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

In the meantime, members of the Egyptian delegation, which includes Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the presidential office, held talks with their Syrian counterparts to discuss topics of common interest for Egypt and Syria. These topics will be discussed in detail during the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian joint higher committee to be cochaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi in Cairo next week. [passage omitted]

Issue Joint Statement

NC1511144890 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1345 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (MENA)—Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad have expressed their regret over Iraq's abortion of any political solution aimed at restoring the situation in Kuwait to what it was before 2 August.

In a press statement issued today in Damascus following their final three-hour session of talks, the two presidents declared that they have given special attention to the call by King Hassan II of Morocco for an extraordinary Arab summit.

The following is the text of the joint statement issued on the talks held in Damascus yesterday and today between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad:

As part of their constant consultations and exchange of views, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, have studied all aspects of the Arab situation, including the Gulf crisis, to arrive at a political solution that will spare the Iraqi people further suffering and the dire consequences that will arise from the continuing Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in contravention of all Arab, international, and Islamic calls and charters.

Within this framework, the two presidents have given special attention to the call by King Hassan II of Morocco for an extraordinary Arab summit.

In view of Baghdad's direct statement casting doubt on the motives for the Moroccan call and imposing preconditions which make it difficult, if not impossible, to convene such a summit, especially since the Iraqi statement was followed by remarks by Iraqi officials stressing the Iraqi leadership's adherence to its rejection of withdrawal from Kuwait and to its continued annexation of the State of Kuwait, the two presidents have expressed regret over Iraq's abortion of any political solution aimed at restoring the situation in Kuwait to what it was before 2 August. They affirm their determination to continue to consult each other and with the Arab brothers to safeguard the supreme interests and unity of the Arab nation.

Leaders Meet SFRY's Loncar

LD1511192190 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1729 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, November 15 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar met in Damascus today first with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and then with Egyptian head of state Husni Mubarak.

Loncar informed President al-Asad about the activities the Non-aligned Movement and Yugoslavia, as the Movement's chairman-country, were pursuing in a quest of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The two sides assessed that possibilities existed for a political solution of the Gulf crisis, which they said posed a serious threat to world peace.

Egyptian President Mubarak and Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Loncar agreed that it was possible and necessary to invest further efforts for resolving the Gulf crisis by political means and avoiding a war conflict of grave consequences. They set out that U.N. Security Council resolutions provided the only basis for a quest of a solution to the Gulf crisis.

In the separate talks Loncar held with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, special attention was devoted to the further activities of the Non-aligned Movement, the Mid-east situation and the situation in the Mediterranean.

The Egyptian side expressed interest in the work and outcome of the upcoming CSCE summit in Paris.

Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Loncar arrived in Damascus last night, as part of his tour of the region. Before arriving in Syria, he visited Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Ministers Discuss Talks

NC1411195390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad talked for three hours this evening in the Presidential Palace. Dr.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told the radio and television team in Damascus that the two leaders' talks were part of the continuing coordination between the Egyptian and Syrian leaderships to follow the developments in the Gulf crisis. He said that both presidents exchanged views on the latest developments in the crisis and consulted on all related issues. The meeting between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad complements Mubarak's consultations with Libyan Revolution Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, which concluded in Surt this morning.

In the meantime, members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak held talks with their Syrian counterparts. The talks dealt with joint coordination between the two countries. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif told the radio and television team in Damascus that three meetings were held. The first was between Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The second was between Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and his Syrian counterpart Muhammad Salman. Minister Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, discussed joint issues between Egypt and Syria [as heard]. Coordination between the two countries falls within the responsibilities of the Egyptian-Syrian preliminary committee that is preparing for a meeting of the two countries' prime ministers and within the responsibilities of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee that will meet in Cairo next week.

Al-Sharif said that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad focused on views on and developments in the Gulf crisis in light of international changes. He stressed that the Egyptian and Syrian views are identical and that both countries are acting in coordination to avert a military confrontation while insisting on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government. He said that the Damascus summit is part of the Egyptian efforts on the summit level. He said that Damascus is the sixth capital President Mubarak has visited in the past few weeks. He said that Egypt and Syria are coordinating their information media in dealing with international developments vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis. He noted that the two sides also discussed means of bosltering Egyptian-Syrian information ties in all areas. President al-Asad will host a banquet this evening in honor of President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation in the al-Dimashqiyah Hall.

Joint Committee Meets

JN1511181990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The minutes of the meetings of the joint Higher Syrian-Egyptian Committee were endorsed today in Damascus. The minutes include the means of enhancing and promoting brotherly cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries in all domains.

The minutes were signed for the Syrian Arab side by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and for Egypt by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of international cooperation. Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini and members of the two sides were present.

Al-'Imadi and Makramallah exchanged two cordial speeches in which they praised the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two fraternal countries, which were enhanced by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They expressed the two countries' eagerness to develop and bolster cooperation in all areas so as to achieve economic integration and enhance the march of development in the interest of the Arab peoples in Syria and Egypt.

The minutes of the preparatory committee included a number of recommendations related to promoting and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries in the following areas: economy, technical cooperation, trade, planning, finance and customs affairs, industry, agriculture, electricity, energy, oil, mineral wealth, housing and construction, communities, transport, communications, tourism, media, health, and culture.

Mubarak Departs

JN1511165690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA)—Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, left Damascus at 1630 today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Request to Expel PFLP-GC Reported Denied

NC1311184990 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 13 (AFP) - Syria has rejected a U.S. request to expel the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] from Damascus, according to the group's leader Ahmad Jibril.

In a statement carried by newspapers here Tuesday, Mr. Jibril said in Damascus that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker personally asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to expel the group during a visit to the Syrian capital in September.

The U.S. media has accused the group of involvement in the explosion aboard a Pan American Airways Boeing over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988. The crash killed 270 people.

Mr. Jibril's group is not part of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It has close ties with Iran and in the past had excellent relations with Libya.

Ba'th Official Confers With Spanish Communists

JN0911161490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party [ASBP], received at

noon today Juan Ramos, secretary general of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain [PCPE], accompanied by (Jimmy Balatrious), PCPE international relations secretary. The meeting was attended by Mit'ib Shinan, secretary of the ASBP Regional Command.

During the meeting, discussions centered on the talks and meetings held by the visiting delegation and relations between the two parties. Talks also dealt with the developments in the Arab region, Europe, and the world. The head of the visiting delegation praised the role played by the ASBP in Syria's advancement and accomplishments. He congratulated the people and leadership of Syria on the 20th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement and wished further progress for Syria under struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

Ramos reaffirmed the PCPE's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people and condemned the Iraqi occupation. He emphasized the need for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Ramos expressed his party's desire for promoting relations and coordination between the two parties.

Comrade al-Ahmar noted the basic principles adopted by the party and revolution in Syria toward events and developments in both Arab and international arenas, especially the stand on the Gulf crisis and condemnation of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait. He said the resolution of this crisis begins with the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to this fraternal country. He said this was the basis for a peaceful solution of the current situation and the one that spares Iraq, the region, and the world a destructive disaster if the situation slides toward an explosion in light of the continued Iraqi intransigence.

Comrade al-Ahmar reaffirmed Syria's continued support for Lebanon and its people to achieve national accord and to reconstruct a unified and independent Lebanon. He said that Lebanon has made progress toward this end especially after the termination of 'Awn's rebellion with the support of Syrian Arab forces. He also expressed Syria's support for the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in their homeland. He added: We view the Arab-Zionist conflict as the central dispute in the region and that Arab efforts must be pooled to confront Israel's designs.In his remarks, Comrade al-Ahmar also touched on the continued U.S. appeasement and support for Israel.

Comrade al-Ahmar said the ASBP will continue to promote relations of cooperation with the PCPE and with all progressive and democratic parties to support peoples' rights and independence and to consolidate world peace.

Before the meeting, a two-year cooperation agreement between the two parties was signed.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Reproves Pakistan for Interference

BK1511120890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 15 (AFP)—President Najibullah lambasted Pakistani leaders Thursday and vowed to defend against what he called Islamabad's aggression and interference in Afghanistan.

The 43-year-old president said he will not surrender his country to "Punjabis," a reference to new Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif, and severely criticised Pakistan for hosting Afghan resistance guerrillas.

"They (Pakistan) have lost three wars to India. Now they are trying to find another war for themselves in Afghanistan," Mr. Najibullah said, vowing to defend the country with his life.

He said Islamabad's leaders were trying to use Afghan guerrillas against the Kabul regime and partition Afghanistan to create another province for Pakistan.

He told a meeting of his followers from the northern Badakshan Province at the high-security Presidential Secretariat here that he was saddened to see Afghan rebels discussing "partition" of the country while sitting in Islamabad.

"In Pakistan people in the North West Frontier Province consider themselves to be Pushtoons. In Balochistan, they are Baloch. In Sindh, they are Sindhis and in Punjab they are Punjabis. So where are the Pakistanis," he said.

Mr. Najibullah said Pakistan was a country without an identity and a brief history of 43 years and could not hope to capture Afghanistan, which has a history of 3,000 years.

Several Afghan guerrilla groups based in Pakistan had given written guarantees to the Pakistani military intelligence and politicians to make Afghanistan a Pakistani province if they capture power in Kabul, Mr. Najibullah told some 35 elders from Badakshan.

Afghanistan has persistently refused to recognise what is known as the Durand Line, the 2,310-kilometre (1,443-mile) border with Pakistan imposed by the rulers of British India in 1893.

Kabul maintains that its border is the River Indus and that the "artificial" Durand Line had carved out one-third of the country, dividing Pushtoon tribespeople living in the area.

Mr. Najibullah said Pakistan had been supporting Afghan guerrillas and providing them with military training since the early 1970s and that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan during the 1980s had been an excuse to keep the country in turmoil.

"The guerrillas said they were fighting a holy war against the infidels. Now the 'infidels' have left, but they are continuing the war," Mr. Najibullah said.

He said "several mistakes" soon after the pro-Communist revolution in 1978 had fuelled the rebellion in Afghanistan and he had tried to correct them by securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops in February last year.

Mr. Najibullah also severely criticised Afghanistan's well-known guerrilla field commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's recent visit to Islamabad at the invitation of Pakistani leaders.

"I regarded Mas'ud as a lion because he stayed in the country for the past 12 years with his people. He has gone to Pakistan and eaten (bread). He is no longer a lion," he said.

Mr. Mas'ud controls large parts of northern Afghanistan and the country's most strategic highway, the Salang, runs through through his strongholds. He had refused to attack supply convoys on the Salang Highway, arguing that it would only hurt civilians in Kabul.

If Mr. Mas'ud's intention was to unite with rival guerrilla groups during his Pakistan visit, Mr. Najibullah said it would bring to Afghans more suffering.

Spokesman Hails Perez Statement on Afghanistan

LD1411185190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Regarding the UN secretary general's comments on Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said:

UN Secretary General Javier perez de Cuellar, in his report concerning Afghanistan that he put forward to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, stated that a common accord is needed, at the national and international levels, for obtaining a political solution. He is optimistic about general accords reached between the United States and the Soviet Union and emphasized the need to find a political procedure and an accord that recognizes the right of [word indistinct] of the people of Afghanistan and as a result allowing the Afghans to decide their own destiny without foreign interference.

The republican state of Afghanistan believes that the statement by the UN secretary general affirms the correct policy of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning a solution to the question of Afghanistan through negotiations and dialogue. In its indefatigable efforts, the Afghan republic was able to draw the attention of international community to the fact that only a political solution could guarantee the maintenance of peace in Afghanistan and security in the region. The resolution of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly clearly states that the people of Afghanistan should be given the opportunity to practise their right of self-determination without foreign interference. This is a belief on which the Afghan Republic has put emphasis in its proposals again and again, and it has

demanded from the government of Pakistan to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan but to let the Afghans choose their own way.

The statement by the UN secretary general concerning the cessation of hostilities, the cessation of the supply of weapons to all parties involved, and the necessity of holding free and fair elections strengthens the beliefs of the Afghan Republic at the international level. The Republic of Afghanistan, in continuation of the humane and ever-responsible efforts by His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, welcomes his statements and considers them as indicative of international will toward reconciliation between Afghan brothers. Pakistan showed respect for international will and should not become an obstacle, through observing the Geneva Accords, to the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and in maintaining good relations between the two countries. It should cease interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Elections Under Caretaker Government Urged

BK1611093990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Awami League and the eight-party alliance leader, Sheikh Hasina, has called for maintaining the constitutional process in the country. Addressing a rally in Dhaka yesterday, she said free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government will ensure the people's right.

World's Largest Jute Mill Closed After Unrest

BK1611050490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 16 (AFP)—Bloody clashes between rival groups of workers that left at least 10 dead and 400 wounded have forced the indefinite closure of the world's largest jute mill here, officials said Friday.

"We have closed the mill for an indefinite period after Wednesday's gunbattle, which was the outcome of about two months of unrest," an official of the Adamjee Jute mill in nearby Narayanganj district said by telephone. Some 300 workers were detained by police for questionng on one of the bloodiest incidents here in recent years, newspapers reported Friday.

The arrests were made in day-long raids on a workers' colony near the mill.

"We have no language to condemn such anti-democratic and inhuman terrorist activities," Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain was quoted as saying in a published statement here. "Such a threat is a threat to the nation."

Opposition leaders and student activists also condemned the incident and accused the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of inciting the violence. Students called Mr. Ershad a "killer" and demanded that he be put on trial.

Trade union sources earlier said the incident began when participants in separate processions of two rival groups, one pro- and the other anti-government, began to fight.

In southeastern Chittagong, 20 workers were injured Thursday in clashes between rival groups, during which several home-made bombs were hurled, press reports said. It added that one seriously injured worker was being treated at a local hospital.

Opposing Student Groups Clash in Gun Battle

BK1511161390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Nov 15 (AFP)—At least 10 students were injured in a gunbattle between two rival student groups here Thursday, police said.

Some 600 students of the Chittagong Commerce College in Agrabad area clashed for about two hours before police intervened and dispersed them, they said. One student was being treated for bullet wounds at a local hospital, they said.

Police said the students belonged to the opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and were fighting over internal party politics.

Tension was high in the college, where some 200 policemen have been posted.

India

Official Denies Navy To Join Gulf Force

BK1511145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The government has denied the report which appeared in a section of the press suggesting the possibility of the Indian Navy joining the multinational force in the Gulf. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the report, which was attributed to the vice chief of the naval staff, Vice Admiral A. Johnson, is wrong. He said the admiral was only giving a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question from newsmen, which was not posed in the context of the Gulf crisis.

'Secret' News Agency Broadcasts From Ayodhya

BK1511152990 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] London, Nov. 5 (IANS) [India Abroad News Service]—Secret transmitter installed near Ayodhya is sending hourly bulletins to a London-based news agency reporting Hindu matters.

This agency called Panchjarnya News Agency International (PNAI) has begun to feed several news wires, newspapers and radio and TV stations. With outlets so far in London, Toronto and New York, news from PNAI has been picked up by the BBC, Independent Radio News, Reuters, AFP, New York Times, Radio stations in Germany, Spain, Denmark and several other ethnic stations, PNAI press officer Hasmukh Shah told India Abroad News Service.

Mr Shah said a receiver had been installed in London for transmissions from Ayodhya. He refused to say where the transmitter near Ayodhya was located. "Next you will ask me on what frequency they are transmitting," he said.

Most of the present round of reporting has come from four Indian journalists now in Ayodhya, Mr Shah said. "They are journalists in their own rights, but at present they are working for us," he said.

Mr Shah said PNAI has a total of 12 such reporters in India, based in Ayodhya, Lucknow, Varanasi, New Delhi, Ahmedabad and Bombay. He said that PNAI is also getting inputs from Dhaka and Islamabad.

The London-based PNAI has offices also in Birmingham, Blackburn and Bradford. The London office feeds information to the other offices in Britain and also to New York and Toronto, Mr Shah said.

"We have taken care to choose only professionals to file for us," he said. "We have no use for hearsay or sensationalising anything. We want only facts."

PNAI bulletins received here have been reporting many developments in Ayodhya ahead of news agencies and radio stations. PNAI was the first to report on injuries to Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] leader Ashok Singhal and subsequent events involving him, the damage to the wall of the mosque and many other events.

Mr Shah said PNAI was also the first to report that four temples in Sindh in Pakistan and 16 temples in Bangladlesh had been attacked. The bulletins led the BBC to invite a member of the PNAI office here to their programme newsprint.

The PNAI, Mr Shah said, had been started by six invididuals in Britain. The others besides him are Mr Thakurbhai Patel, of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Mr D. D. Shah, of Birmingham, Mr Bharat Shah, of Croydon (none of them related), Mr A. L. Sharma, of Wembley, and Mr J. Patel, of Harrow. But, Mr Shah clarified, "this is an effort made by the six of us, and has not been organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad."

Mr Shah said PNAI was set up two months ago. Its operation in the last six months, he said, had cost 16,000 pounds. "The money spent so far has come from individual donations," Mr Shah said. "But we will soon be inviting subscription to our agency," he said, evidently encouraged by the success of PNAI.

He said there had been no adverse reaction to the agency from any Muslim organisation so far.

Shekhar Visits Sadar Bazaar; Sanctions Relief

BK1511161790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, visited the Sadar Bazaar area today and met the people affected by the violent incidents. He directed that firm action be taken against those guilty of indulging in violence and arson. He appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said elements responsible for violence will be identified and penal action taken against them. Later, he sanctioned five lakh rupees from the prime minister's national relief fund for the affected people.

An official spokesman told newsmen that the situation in the Sadar Bazaar area is improving. Some stray incidents of stone throwing were reported from some localities in West Delhi. Miscreants damaged some buses and other vehicles.

Our correspondent says that there are intelligence reports that some trained elements had infiltrated from across the border and organized attempts are being made to create misunderstanding among various communities. The official spokesman said the Home Ministry has cautioned the concerned agencies to be watchful and the public has also been advised to remain vigilant.

Meanwhile, the death toll in yesterday's group clashes and arson has gone up to six with one more person succumbing to his injuries today. According to a spokesman of the Delhi police, the incident has been referred to the crime branch for investigation. Ten persons were injured in today's incidents of violence and 232 persons were arrested. He said that one more company of the Border Security Force has been called to strengthen the patrolling in the troubled areas. Several political parties and organizations have condemned yesterday's incident.

Shekhar Seeks Confidence Vote in Lok Sabha

Janata Dal-S Confident

BK1511150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal-S has expressed its confidence that the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, will establish his majority in the Lok Sabha tomorrow without any difficulty. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malviya, claimed that the strength of his party in the house has gone up to 68. He ruled out any possibility of a midterm poll and said that the government led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar will last its full term.

Shekhar Votes for Motion

BK1611055690 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0530 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar is seeking a vote of confidence today to prove his majority in the one-day special session of the Lok Sabha. The Congress-I and its allies lending support to the Janata Dal-S [Socialist] led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar will vote for the motion, while the Janata Dal, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the left parties have decided to oppose it.

The Congress-I and its allies, who have declared their support to Mr. Chandra Shekhar, have 211 members in the house having an effective strength of 521. The Congress-I allies include All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the National Conference. The Janata Dal-S general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, has claimed that the strength of his party in the house has gone up to 68. The combined strength of the Janata Dal was 140. The BJP has 86 members, while the Left parties have the strength of 52.

Lok Sabha Begins Discussion

BK1611081590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha has begun a discussion on the government's motion seeking confidence in the council of ministers. The motion was moved by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

Earlier, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, overruled objections by the Janata Dal and left party members that there was no council of ministers as only the prime minister and the deputy prime minister have been sworn in so far. They argued that the council of ministers has to have more than one minister besides the prime minister. The speaker ruled that the motion moved by Mr. Chandra Shekhar is in order. He said it is entirely up to the prime minister to select his team. Mr. Chandra Shekhar explained that there were several reasons for not constituting a full council of ministers as yet. He said as soon as he gets the confidence of the Lok Sabha he will expand his council of ministers.

Moving the motion, the prime minsiter refuted the allegation that he had any hand in bringing down the V.P. Singh government. He said the previous government had lost the majority, the day the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] withdrew support and accused Mr. V.P. Singh of sticking to the chair despite being in minority. He said the previous government, during its 11 month rule, totally mismanaged the economy, bringing the nation close to a disaster. Mr. Chandra Shekhar defended his action in seeking Congress-I support and said the need of the hour is to retrieve the country out of the morass. He urged all political parties to join hands in this task.

The one-day special session of the Lok Sabha has been called to enable Mr. Chandra Shekhar to prove his majority on the floor of the house under a directive from the president. Our correspondent says there is no major change in the complexion of the house. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and his deputy Mr. Devi Lal have occupied the front two seats on the treasury benches and the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has moved to the front seat in the adjoining row, sitting beside Mr. L.K. Advani, BJP. This seat had been occupied by Mr. Chandra Shekhar in the last session, when Mr. V.P. Singh lost majority on the floor of the house on the 7th of this month.

More on Lok Sabha Session

BK1611085390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that he has given directions to the authorities to take firm and prompt action against those found guilty in the recent violence and arson in Sadar Bazaar area of Delhi. He was responding to the demand in the Lok Sabha for an immediate statement by the government on the situation in Delhi raised by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left party members. The atmosphere in the house was surcharged for nearly half an hour soon after it met for the special session today and the speaker called Mr. Chandra Shekhar to move the motion regarding confidence in his Council of Ministers.

A CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxists] member displayed a poster while the BJP member charged Mr. Chandra Shekhar of not taking leaders from other parties except Congress-I during his visit to the affected areas yesterday. He also alleged that Doordarshan [television] is not projecting their views on the issue. The prime minister said that he will direct Doordarshan that it should record statements of leaders of all political parties on the need to maintain peace and communal harmony. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said peace will be maintained at all costs and nobody will be spared who is found involved, no matter to which he belongs to. He appealed to all political parties to exercise restraint and work (?closely) with the government in restoring peace and communal harmony.

Discussions Continue

BK1611100890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Lok Sabha is now having a discussion on the motion seeking the confidence of the house moved by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Charges and countercharges are being freely (?made) between the government and opposition members. Both the sides have accused each other of offering allurements to their members for lending support to them. Moving the motion, Mr. Chandra Shekhar refuted the allegation that he had any hand in bringing down the V.P. Singh government. [passage omitted] Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that those who have opposed the formation of his government are probably not aware of the true state of

affairs. He offered to take leaders of various political parties in confidence about the situation at a meeting in the speaker's chamber.

The former union minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate of the Janata Dal, accused the prime minister of indulging in opportunism. He said the formation of the new government is in violation of the people's mandate and healthy parliamentary traditions.

The house witnessed acrimonious exchanges when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi of the Congress-I alleged that two former ministers, Mr. Nathuram Mirdha and Mr. George Fernandes, had sent feelers to his party to save the V.P. Singh ministry and they were prepared to make any compromise. This was promptly denied by the two former ministers. The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, also strongly rebutted the allegation and said had he wanted to remain in power, the easiest thing would have been to come to an understanding with the BJP. Mr. Singh, leveling a countercharge, said that many Congress-I leaders had approached him. He, however, did not elaborate. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi immediately asked Mr. Singh to disclose the names.

The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, intervened to say that the former prime minister had sent a plane to Dhulia in Maharashtra to fetch him to Delhi and it was at his suggestion that the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, was approached by a former minister to reach an understanding with the Congress-I.

Earlier, as soon as the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, called Mr. Chandra Shekhar to move the motion, the former minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan of the Congress-S, questioned the propriety of the motion, which sought confidence of the house in the Council of Ministers. He said barring the prime minister and the deputy prime minister, no other minister has been sworn in and the house cannot express its confidence to a nonexistent Council of Ministers. Several Janata Dal members and those from the left parties joined Mr. Unnikrishnan and said that the council has to have more than one minister besides the prime minister. The speaker ruled that the motion moved by Mr. Chandra Shekhar is in order. He said it is entirely up to the prime minister to select his team. Mr. Chandra Shekhar explained that there were several reasons for not constituting a full Council of Ministers as yet. He said as soon as he gets the confidence of the Lok Sabha, he will expand his Council of Ministers.

Shekhar Wins Confidence Vote

BK1611143690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has won a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. Two hundred and sixty nine members voted in favor of the government motion and 204 against out of a total of 488 members present in the house. Fifteen members abstained.

The house later adjourned sine die.

Lok Sabha Speaker Accepts Punjab Resignations

BK1611134090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, announced that he has accepted the resignation of two members—Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann and Mr. Gurdayal Singh Saini [Akali Dal leaders from Punjab]—from the membership of the house. Mr. Ray informed the house that he has received letters of resignations from them and has accepted these from October the 12th and the 9th of this month.

Devi Lal Urges Parties To Help Solve Problems

BK1511161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal-S president, Mr. Devi Lal, has appealed to all political parties to look beyond narrow interests and cooperate with the government in evolving a national consensus on major issues. In a statement, he said interests of political parties do not matter at this critical juncture when the country is facing threat from several quarters.

Referring to the vote on the confidence motion in the Lok Sabha tomorrow, Mr. Devi Lal said though it is basically to prove the majority of the government, it will amount to evolving priorities before the nation at this critical hour. He said communal harmony and problems like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam are on top of the national agenda and need immediate attention. He said in the wake of disturbing developments in recent months and the fall of the V.P. Singh government, the national opinion, excluding that of some political parties, has veered round to the view that midterm elections must be avoided at all costs. Mr. Devi Lal criticized certain political parties for trying to force the country to a midterm poll. He warned that if they are allowed to succeed, it will only bring disaster to the country.

Iran

Velayati Denies Shift in Relations With U.S.

LD1611104490 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said that Iran's position towards the United States continues to be as it was and that as long as the U.S. should continue its hostile policies towards Iran it will remain unaltered.'

Velayati made the remark to IRNA by way of denying a report by the CNN Television, also quoted by Turkey's ANATOLA news agency to the effect that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani had solicited the mediation

of Turkish President Turgut Ozal between Tehran and Washington for re-establishing Iran-U.S. relations.

Velayati asserted that throughout the visit to Tehran by the Turkish president he (Velayati) had participated at each and every meeting between the two presidents. He said the bulk of the topics discussed between Rafsanjani and Ozal centered on the Persian Gulf crisis, and Iran-Turkey relations in various areas, and noted that the topic had never been brought up by either of them. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Asserts Adherence to Iraqi Sanctions

LD1611111490 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Nov. 16, IRNA—In a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday [15 November] the Iranian U.N. representative, Kamal Kharrazi, said Iran has observed U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

The letter to Perez de Cuellar pointed out that the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressly condemns all acts of aggression in their whatever form, and that the supreme National Security Council of Iran has ordered the Iranian Ministry of the Interior as well as the military and law enforcement organs to ensure compliance with the sanctions against Iraq as recommended in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661.

According to the letter Iran has banned export to and import from Iraq of all commodities, and in addition currency transfers to Kuwait have also been discontinued in keeping with the UN resolution.

The letter to Perez de Cuellar said insofar as compliance with the U.N. sanctions against Iraq is concerned the Islamic Republic has had no problem except to check the smuggling of food staples to Iraq for which Iran has adopted adequate control measures. The document adds that since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war all previously existing economic and trade agreements between the two countries have been either cancelled or suspended.

POW Exchange With Iraq To Resume 'Next Week'

LD1611091890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, who had gone to Baghdad at the head of a political delegation, returned to Tehran this morning after two days of talks with Iraq's president and foreign minister. After arriving in Tehran, Mr. Velayati said in an interview: During our stay in Iraq we held one round of talks with the president and two rounds with the foreign minister of Iraq. We held discussions and exchanged views on bilateral relations and continued the talks on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, regional issues, and the Persian Gulf crisis.

On the exchange of the remaining POW's, our country's foreign minister said: The exchange of the remaining POW's of the two sides will begin next week in a manner agreed, and it was agreed that first of all the POW's of either of the two countries, who have been tried for whatever reason, should be pardoned. He added: We had names and evidence proving that a number of the POW's, who have not been released, are alive; and we placed these [names and evidence] at the disposal of the Iraqi authorities. It was agreed that they will either give a convincing reply or release our POW's as soon as possible.

On the pilgrimage to the two countries' holy places, Mr. Velayati said: An agreement in principle was reached and a delegation, led by the regional director general of the Foreign Ministry, will go to Baghdad within a week's time at the latest to clarify the detailed procedure required to enable the two countries' citizens visiting the holy places [in Iran and Iraq]. Pilgrimage to the holy places will begin in the near future.

About the Persian Gulf crisis, our country's foreign minister said: Our position is clear. We defend Kuwait's independence and we are against its occupation; and we have informed the Iraqi authorities of this stand. Of course, we are opposed to the presence of the foreign forces too, and we believe it is up to the people of the region to maintain the region's security.

He stressed: The course of developing ties is a positive course, and this visit was a big step toward good neighborliness between the two countries.

About the method of implementing the resolution and the UN mediation, Mr. Velayati said: The talks will continue between our ambassadors in Geneva, and it is obvious that we shall inform the United Nations of the outcome.

About the missing-in-action [combatants] our country's foreign minister said: It is up to the two countries to continue the talks to remove the difficulties and to clarify the final fate of the missing-in-action.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Makes Two-Day Visit

Arrives in Tehran

LD1211235390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2315 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, 12 Nov (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Iran this evening on a two-day visit.

The federal secretary for foreign affairs said that the aim of his visit was to exchange views on developments in the world, particularly in the Persian Gulf. Assessing Yugoslav-Iranian relations as very friendly and close, Budimir Loncar said in a brief statement for the press that talks would focus on the further promotion of cooperation between the two countries, especially on economic cooperation.

The talks between Loncar and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who welcomed the guest from Yugoslavia at Tehran airport, begin tomorrow.

Holds Talks With President

LD1311190290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1545 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, 13 Nov (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Iran today voiced grave concern over the exacerbation of the Gulf crisis and urged continuation of dialogue so a peaceful resolution of the Kuwaiti problem could be found.

Two nonaligned countries made this assessment in the course of talks between Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Yugoslav foreign secretary also had detailed consultations about the Gulf crisis with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The exacerbation of the current crisis in the region threatens to flare up into a war, both sides concluded, stressing that it is necessary to start a new drive to preserve dialogue aimed at urgently finding a peaceful and political solution. The principles of the United Nations Charter and of nonaligned policy, within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in the wake of the Iraqi aggression of Kuwait, present the basis for such a decision, it was specified. This would also pave the way to resolve other outstanding problems of the Middle East crisis, both sides are convinced.

Yugoslavia and Iran believe that these and other international priority issues testify to the special importance of, and increased opportunities for, constructive activity of the nonaligned countries in line with the current positive world trends.

It was expected that their talks on the most important international and regional issues focused on the current activities of the Nonaligned Movement, about which a comprehensive exchange of views was carried out. It was concluded that their views coincided.

The Yugoslav foreign minister informed the hosts about activities of Yugoslavia as a chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, which met with support and positive comments by the Iranian side.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati informed Budimir Loncar about Iran's current activity in the Gulf region.

During these meetings, which were pervaded by an atmosphere of emphasized friendliness and openness, both sides highly assessed the development of bilateral relations and their prospects, particularly for long-term economic cooperation.

Federal Secretary Loncar had a detailed talk with Economy and Finance minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh. The two ministers concluded that both sides should invest further effort to establish new economic, scientific, and technical connections. They also examined a possibility of long-term deliveries of oil and gas to Yugoslavia, and ways of including our economy at a higher degree in the post-war renewal and in the ambitious development plans of Iran.

Iran is one of the most important economic partners of Yugoslavia among developing countries. Until September this year Yugoslav-Iranian trade amounted to something more than 240 million dollars, while overall trade last year amounted to 260 million dollars.

Afghan Mujahidin Leaders Arrive With Delegation

LD1411190390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani and Sayyed Jagran, two Afghan mujahidin leaders, arrived in Tehran today heading a delegation of the Afghan mujahidin. They were welcomed by the minister of state for foreign affairs for Afghan issues.

Mr. Rabbani, in an interview with our reporter, described the outcome of the recent meeting of the Afghan commanders as useful and fruitful. He said: At that gathering, the future and the strategy of Afghanistan were reviewed and discussed. He said: Existing problems at the fronts, protection of unity among various Afghan groups, and achievement of specific goals, were among other issues that were assessed.

Referring to the point that the Afghan mujahidin will not agree with any conditions or limitation which would pose a threat to the country's independence, Mr. Rabbani stressed the necessity for struggle until final victory, within the framework of Islamic principles.

Sayyed Jagran, another of the Afghan mujahidin military leaders, in that interview stressed that coordination in various ranks of the mujahidin is one of the fundamental basics and we are monitoring, with complete authority, what happens in various ranks of the mujahidin. We are decisive about continuing our struggle against the occupiers. He said the achievements from the formation of the Unity Party were very valuable.

President Issues Circular on Price Control

LD1511172790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] In a circular, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani instructed all executive organizations, Islamic revolution institutes, public companies and institutes, municipalities, and private institutes to strictly refrain from any decisions which may, directly or indirectly, contribute to an increase in the price of goods or services.

In the circular, the president stresses: To coordinate the implementation of policies on the price of products and services, the executive machinery must present their

proposals, together with full economic justification, to the Economic Council, for appraisal and final decision.

In accordance with the president's circular, goods produced using foreign currency at free or competitive exchange rates and special cases the Economic Council has made exempt from price control in the past are not covered by the circular.

RESALAT Report on 14 Oct 90 Majles Session

PM1511115690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Report from yesterday's open session of the Majles:

The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary reporter, in this session, following preagenda speeches by the deputies from Rasht, Khaf and Rashtkhor, and Tehran, the deputy speaker of the Majles made some remarks after which the Majles went into session.

Below is a text of the preagenda speeches, the comments of the deputy speaker of the Majles, and the bills passed by the Majles:

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, deputy for the people of Rasht: In addition to creating revolutionary movements that would deliver continuous blows against Israel, we must also act within the framework of regional agreements with countries that have negative feelings toward Israel.

The first preagenda speaker of yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Nowbakht, the people's deputy from Rasht. During a speech, he talked about the recent crime of the Zionist regime in the massacre of Muslim Palestinians on Black Monday and said: What is our duty as a people whose homeland is a secure base for all the innocent and revolutionary, antiaggressor movements? Should it be enough for us to express sympathy for Palestine, to express our hatred toward the occupiers? Is our duty limited to holding a memorial service for the martyrs of this bloody revolt? In this case the people of countries in line with Israel, such as Egypt and Jordan, have done more than that. A predictable UN Security Council has also condemned Israel, but unfortunately the situation is worse than this.

The people's deputy from Rasht said: Today the problem of occupied Palestine and the defenseless Muslims cannot be solved by expressing sympathy and sending condolences. Day by day the aggressors continue their crimes with ever more boldness.

The speaker stressed: One must keep in mind that one cannot get the sort of international support and leverage which is now being used against Iraq in Kuwait when it comes to the liberation of Palestine. One must plan for and stress the revolt of the Muslim people in the occupied territories and in regional movements.

The people's deputy from Rasht added: Fortunately, the nonstop revolt of the Muslims of Palestine and the albeit unequal defense against Israeli soldiers have provided the right conditions for confrontation. The imam—may God's blessing be upon him—stressed in his last will and testament that the people of Palestine must start the movement themselves and should not wait for someone abroad to start the struggle. With this uprising in Palestine, the proper groundwork has been prepared. Keeping in mind the situation in Israel and the foreign support for it, however, one must not leave the Palestinian people on their own.

The speaker added: It is absolutely necessary that on the one hand one at least equip and prepare the revolutionary and Muslim anti-Zionist groups in a serious manner in order to deliver blows against Israel.

In reality, it is regrettable and worrisome that while some nationalistic movements in Palestine that do not have an Islamic nature agree to compromise with Israel, the Hezbollah revolutionary movement and Amal in Lebanon, which are on the frontline with Israel, engage in fratricide. Without paying attention to their very sensitive mission, they use one another as targets.

He added: It is appropriate for me to add that it was expected that after the visit to Tehran by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the clashes between Amal and Hezbollah in Lebanon would end in the strengthening of the Islamic front against Israel. In particular, now with the removal of Michel 'Awn from the scene of struggle in Lebanon, the balance of power has changed in favor of the Lebanese Government and the Syrian forces there. We must, therefore, prepare a planned program under these new conditions to help the people of Palestine who have risen up. Another considerable leverage point which we cannot easily ignore is all the regional opposition against Israel, even though the regimes ruling these countries for various reasons are not willing to take effective steps against Israel. There is, however, the potential in the Muslims of the region to confront Israel; this is something that cannot be denied. Iran, as a country which is the source of the Islamic revolution and a country whose leader is the leader of Muslim affairs, must use all this potential, with proper management, in the interests of the Muslims of Palestine.

The deputy from Rasht continued: I ask permission to criticize openly this idea which contradicts unity. There are some who say that anyone who is not walking with us is really not with us at all. Unfortunately, this confrontation inside the country has so far—mostly depending on the circumstances—caused the removal of the so-called radicals by one faction and the so-called moderates by another faction. We have fought with those who were behind us and with those who had gone ahead of us and who were not willing to accept the fact that even if we were moving at different rates, we were still moving along the same path. We have witnessed this many times during the different stages of the revolution. There were those who could not be counted upon, but they were our

companions even though they were behind, but they backed us in the face of the enemy. This line of thought was used in certain dealings with foreigners. We accept the fact that no country has staged an Islamic revolution like Iran, nor has had a leader like the imam, nor today enjoys the blessing of having a leader like ours. Is this reason enough for us to reject all the other countries of the world?

He added: Regarding struggle against Israel and help for the Palestinian Muslims, we have the duty to use the existing potential of the Muslims of the world, especially those in the region. Today, when the nature of the Iraqi regime has become even more clear to the nations of the region and the situation of Islamic Iran has become fantastic, we should use this opportunity to formulate the popular and Islamic potential in the region against Israel. We should take the initiative and prepare and equip Islamic movements to deliver constant blows against Israel within the framework of regional agreements, with those countries which show negative feelings toward Israel. In this way, we should exert increasing pressure on the occupying Zionist regime. The level of success in this issue will depend on exact planning and active diplomacy on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We must not become disappointed in using this potential and think that it is enough to express our condolences and useless support for the defenseless Muslims of Palestine. Therefore, on the one hand we must make occupied Palestine a place that is not secure for the Zionists by supporting nonstop struggle and commando actions, in order to destroy Israel's illegitimate existence. On the other hand, we should prepare and organize countries in the region to confront Israel in a practical way, even though this may be very limited; otherwise, Palestine will be all alone.

The people's deputy from Rasht continued his speech by commenting on the action taken so far in the earthquake-stricken areas of Gilan Province by the minister of interior, the governor general, and other officials. He said: Unfortunately, once again I must state that the maximum announced figure for bank loans, which is 3 million rials, in no way solves the problems. Keeping in mind the shortage of building materials and the high price of goods needed for reconstruction, it is quite proper for the respected government—now that it is not in a position to offer grants—to at least raise the amount of the loans. By the way, from the $300 million approved by the Majles in hard currency so far, very little has been used to purchase building materials. We are expecting this to be speeded up because many of the families that are in temporary housing are waiting to receive loans and building materials to repair and make their homes more secure from danger. In another section of his speech, the speaker talked about the positive outlook shown by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education in changing the allocation zone system in cities. He said: Unfortunately, there were some mistakes in announcing the names of those who had passed the entrance examinations for the universities. This has again caused some worry and some unfairness toward those who took part in nationwide entrance examinations for the universities. We are confidently expecting that the complaints of the students taking the exams will be dealt with immediately.

At the end of his speech the deputy from Rasht said: Delaying the elections for the Council of Experts in Gilan Province has meant that there is now less worry and fewer complaints by the people. The expectation still remains, however, to have at this stage the respected representative of the jurisconsult [faqih] of the province, Ayatollah Ehsan-Bakhsh—who is famous among all for his wisdom, respect, trust, and suitability—chosen as candidate for this Council.

Hoseyn Najafi, the people's deputy from Khaf, stated: We will stand by any freedom force that attacks Israel.

The second preagenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Hoseyn Najafi from the constituency of Khaf and Rashtkhor.

While condemning the recent crimes of the Zionists in the massacre of Palestinians on Black Monday, he said: The attack against Kuwait by Iraq and its occupation proved so costly for the aggressors in terms of financial interests, that they all united and passed resolution after resolution asking for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops. But the attack 10 years ago by Iraq against Islamic Iran and the U.S. attack against Grenada were ignored. There was even all-out support for the aggressor. The innocent who is the victim is the subject of sanctions in all cases. Now, in the case of the massacre of innocent Palestinians, where are the so-called human rights organizations of the United States and Britain? Why are everyone's lips sealed? Why do they not issue a resolution for Zionist forces to get out of Palestine?

O Muslims of the world! O oppressed peoples in chains! O you who have throughout history tasted the bitter taste of godless aggressors' looting your wealth, wake up! The only way is to take up weapons and stage an armed struggle against those cruel regimes who, in the name of Islam, have come to fight the pure Islam of the Prophet. Attack them and know that your victory lies in your armed crusade.

You, Muslim people of Saudi Arabia, you, revolutionaries of the Arabian peninsula, your country, which is the point to which Muslims pray and the place where the message of God was delivered, is today shaking under the boots of the soldiers of aggression at the invitation of the occupying rulers of Saudi.

You Muslims of Egypt, revolutionaries of Egypt, your treasonous government headed by the heretic Husni Mubarak has brought indignity to such a level as to undermine the morals and the dignity of Islam, providing playthings and facilities of entertainment to American and allied soldiers. At this sensitive time, while condemning the aggression of Iraq against Kuwait, I condemn the deployment of troops by the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf region and

announce that whatever freedom force in the world attacks Israel, we will be alongside them.

He added: Thanks be to God that the elections for the second round of the Council of Experts were held with widespread participation by the people, despite plots by foreign radios and the propaganda of the revolution's enemies. The revolution's enemies should know that obeying the leader is the duty of every revolutionary person. Those responsible at RESALAT newspaper should know that your crooked words against our true revolutionaries have shown the people that the line of the imam and hezbollah are just and right. Your insults will bring glory and strength to the children of the revolution. If God so wills, the enemy will bring some blessing.

Najafi added: The issue of inflation, which is what the leech-like capitalists want, demands steadfastness on the part of the officials and the government.

The speaker addressed Mr. Nuri, the minister of interior, saying: Mr. Nuri, your governor general in Khorasan province is getting rid of dedicated and revolutionary forces right, left, and center. For example, the issue of the office of the district governor of Rashtkhor, which is the political center of the government in a district, has become more like a place of trade, buying, and selling. It has become a place for coordination with the capitalists and the removal of the oppressed. What was the reason for the swift removal of the mayor of Rashtkhor? Was it because he stood firm against those who took from food allocated for the people? Is it right that standing firm to uphold the law should result in one's being fired?

In this regard he gave details about some events that had taken place in his constituency. He complained about the removal of the mayor of Rashtkhor and criticized the actions of the governor general of Khorasan province. He also asked the minister of interior to send a delegation to Khorasan province to look into these issues.

In conclusion he asked Mr. Najafi, the minister of education, to investigate the management of the education office in Khorasan province. He said: We have witnessed that some members of the Hojjatiyyeh organization [religious organization]] have been given jobs: those who are against the revolution, against the leadership, and are today in line with the United States.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar, deputy from Tehran: The Majles that has come about now has come from the cries of the people who shouted God is great. It should not be a tool in the hands of some people to trample on the blood of the martyrs.

Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, deputy for the people of Tehran, was the third preagenda speaker. In a speech, he commented on the crime of the Zionists and added: We announce our continued adherence to the lofty goal set by the great imam and announce that Israel must be destroyed. But the reactionary and puppet regimes in the region should also know that their treason toward the Islamic movement of the Palestinian people becomes more obvious every day. The children of these martyrs will not forget these memories.

He then thanked the people for their widespread and enemy-destroying participation in the elections for the Council of Experts.

Mr. Bahonar continued his speech by commenting on the fact that there was no open session of the Majles on 7 October 1990. He said: With regard to the closing of the Majles on 7 October 1990, the deputies whose names were broadcast by the mass media as absent from the session have written a letter to the respected leader outlining their reasons, which I will now read.

This is the text of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate.

To the great leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamane'i may God's blessings be upon you.

Greetings and may God's kindness be upon you. Following the closure of the Majles on Sunday 7 October, the Majles leadership and the mass media, including the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, condemned the lack of attendance by some of the deputies based on a group letter from several deputies. Unfortunately, this incident was quoted as being a strike. We, the undersigned deputies, have deemed it necessary to give our reasons. We will also look into the actions of some people who began their opposition at the time when there were changes being made to the regulations governing the Council of Experts, which caused the closure of the Majles on Sunday 7 October.

1. There were some who voiced their opposition to changes made in the Council of Experts' regulations and insisted on this up until the time that you approved the format of the said changes in your remarks on 12 September.

2. In the second stage, despite hearing the guidelines of the great leader, they insisted on their opposition, and some plunged their daggers into the clerics of the Council of Guardians, despite what happened in the past. They accused them of factionalism, and this comes at a time when the justice and wisdom of the respected clerical members of the Council of Guardians were repeatedly stressed by our departed Imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—and the great leader.

3. Following your clear remarks approving the decisions of the experts, and the legal action taken by the Council of Guardians on 3 October and asking the people to take part in the elections as a religious duty, some still continue to sow doubt in the hearts of the people. This went so far that on the week before the elections, the Majles microphones became mouthpieces putting down the elections for the experts. One of the speakers even clearly announced: "I have my doubts about the justice of one of the clerics of the Council of Guardians and I will no longer attend and read the Friday prayers with

him." In this way he weakened the enemy-destroying base of the Friday Prayers in the center of the Islamic Republic, and in a way influenced his friends.

4. When the respected deputy from Nahavand in the Majles decided to give answers to some accusations made by the opposition, he was unfortunately attacked by some of the deputies, who tore up his speech.

5. Those who opposed the elections for the experts, in their last effort, put before the Majles as a matter of utmost urgency a plan to limit the number of candidates in the elections. They announced that this plan was aimed at halting the elections for the experts in most electoral areas.

Because Article 108 of the Constitution leaves the laws dealing with the numbers, conditions, and the quality of the elections of the experts up to the experts themselves, some deputies officially warned against the aforementioned plan. The speaker of the session, Mr. Hashemiyan, considered the warning to be apt. But it was suggested that if this plan did not dominate the elections for the Experts, it would be all right. Based on this, discussion started on the subject in the last hours of the session on Wednesday 3 October. In any case, the discussions in favor of the plan focused mostly on creating doubt about the resolutions passed by the Council of Experts and insulting the clerical members of the Council of Guardians. Finally, there was an attempt to put across the idea that people had no motive for participating in the elections. Unfortunately, since none of this was within the main body of the subject at hand, the Majles leadership did not warn the speakers concerned and the discussions were scheduled to continue on Sunday 7 October, the day before the elections.

6. The deputy speaker of the Majles in his preagenda speech on 3 October spoke about the decisions of the Council of Experts and the actions of the Council of Guardians, and unfortunately mentioned these as elements that caused tension and weakened the interests of the Islamic Republic. He then asked you to intervene in the issue. This comes at a time when the leadership of the Majles should absolutely insist on the implementation of the law and prevent the weakening of the law and the Council of Guardians, which is in a way weakening the Majles itself.

7. In keeping with tradition, the Majles always announced a recess for Unity Week, Majles elections, presidential elections, or the period between two holidays. So it was very necessary to have a holiday on Sunday 7 October which was the day before the elections, a time for deputies to go to their constituencies to invite and encourage the people to take part in the elections. But Mr. Bayat announced that the leadership of the Majles had voted unanimously that the open session on Sunday 7 October should go ahead. Was this reaction not in itself a sort of negative struggle in an effort to minimize the importance of the experts' elections? Was it not necessary to have the Majles, like hundreds of organizations, announce in a statement its steadfast support for the guidelines of the great leader with regard to widespread participation in the elections for the experts? Was the open session on Sunday 7 October not like swimming against the tide of the imam, the leader, and the ummah in holding the experts' elections in a glorious way? The people are asking: Does our country not have three governing powers? Why is it that the judicial power and the executive power announced their support for the invitation of the vali but the Majles remained silent? Unfortunately the leadership of the Majles has not only undertaken this negative struggle, but included in the agenda for the open session of Sunday 7 October a plan which they themselves say contradicts Article 108 of the Constitution. They argued that the day should not be announced as a recess, and through the open microphones of the Majles put all their effort into trying to cause doubt and disappointment in the people.

8. The gentlemen of the opposition, on the day after the elections for the experts, found out about the widespread presence of the Hezbollah people at the polling stations and they saw that their efforts in trying to stop the elections were futile. Then they suggested that the priority label be removed from their so-called plan, and in the discussions for and against the issue announced that their plan was to prevent dictatorship.

One of them said the widespread participation of the Hezbollah ummah in the elections for the experts was a catastrophe saying: "Since this catastrophe took place, it is not necessary to continue discussions on the plan." If there had been an open session on Sunday 7 October would this person not have said, there is a catastrophe that is about to take place tomorrow; people beware and be careful?

9. The leadership of the Majles, on the day after the elections, read only 55 names out of 105 names of deputies who had been absent, presumably to remain completely neutral. What did the Majles leadership mean by this clear violation? Does it want to suggest that those in favor of the experts' elections were few, and thereby condemn them? Does quantity make any difference to what is just and right? Do you now know that the late Moddares [well-known cleric] stood alone to face and solve many problems? In any case, keeping in mind the trend of the past month—bringing under question what was passed by the experts, insulting the respected clerical members of the Council of Guardians, and finally their factional behavior in weakening the elections for the experts as well as creating disappointment and loss of hope for the people—some of the opposition wanted to complete their so-called plan on Sunday 7 October and taste the fruit of their efforts. Having full belief in safeguarding the lofty role of the Majles, we believe that any of the organizations of the holy regime of the Islamic Republic is worthy, legal, and acceptable as long as it moves in the direction of safeguarding the regime, strengthening other organizations, and keeping the presence of the people of the Hezbollah on the

political scene, in their millions, behind the great and respected leader. If some want to weaken the most important pillars of society, the Council of Experts and the Council of Guardians from the open microphones of the Majles, and if, against the general movement of the people and organizations, they want to go against the people, they will above all weaken the Majles. They will also throw away their oath which was to defend the Constitution and maintain what the people have entrusted to them. Therefore, in order to safeguard the Majles, deviation must be prevented. The Majles that has been created comes from the shouts of the people who cried "God is great" and must not be used as a tool by some to trample on the holy blood of the martyrs. Keeping in mind the above points, there was friendly advice to the leadership which was warned not to act in this way. There was also a suggestion signed by 25 deputies to close the Majles the day before the fate-determining elections for the Council of Experts which should, in accordance with established standards, have been put to a vote. Unfortunately, they did not even act in accordance with this and they insisted on holding a Majles session to discuss the so-called plan.

For the above reasons, we the undersigned recognized that session to be based on opposition to the people, the elections for the experts, and you, and saw it to be against the overwhelming tide of the wishes of the Hezbollah people. Therefore, we did not participate in the session.

At this point we would like to lodge a complaint with you, the great leader, against the severely factional actions of the Majles leadership. Unfortunately, they have become in their actions a perfect example of [Koranic verse.] There is of course no room here to go into detail about all the times they have acted against the Constitution and Majles internal regulations. That will be discussed at a later date. [Signatures of deputies.]

Mr. Hashemiyan, deputy speaker of the Majles, made some remarks in yesterday's open session of the Majles. In a speech, he talked about the anniversary of the martyrdom of the martyr of the mosque Ayatollah Eshraqi Esfahani saying: Ayatollah Eshraqi Esfahani was one of the personalities who, in addition to being a student of the imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—also enjoyed a good and friendly relationship with the imam. During the revolution this great person followed the imam exactly, and he was a great support to the revolution.

He continued: This great character who was martyred by the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas] had an important role in guiding and teaching the brave people of Bakhtaran province during the revolution. We convey our condolences on the anniversary of the martyrdom of this symbol of piety to his respected family, and especially to our colleague Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr. Ashrafi, the deputy from Bakhtaran.

In conclusion he thanked Ayatollah Sane'i for his speech on the massacre of the Palestinians and for his support of the Majles.

The bills passed by the Majles

A report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent from yesterday's open session of the Majles indicates that a general discussion on the bill to correct articles 4 and 6 of the law on ways to balance manpower, passed by the Majles on 18 December 1987, was the first item on the agenda of the open session yesterday. Following a general discussion and comments for and against the proposals, it was passed by the Majles.

The second item on the agenda was a report on the first round of discussions of the labor and social issues' commission with regard to a plan to extend the legal deadline for early retirement of workers who are eligible for social security, which was approved.

The third item was a report on the first round of discussions of the administrative and personnel commission with regard to a legal plan to form a ministry of health and social security. Following comments by several deputies in favor and against the plan, because of a shortage of time, continued discussion on this issue was left for the next open session of the Majles.

The Majles session continued by sending to the Expediency Discernment Council a plan to create facilities for the sacrificers [disabled].

The Majles will have an open session tomorrow morning.

RESALAT Reports on 16 Oct 90 Majles Session

PM1511153290 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] The open session was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat.

According to RESALAT'S parliamentary reporter, during this session, after speeches from deputies from Quchan and Tehran, the Majles entered into session.

Below is the text of the pre-agenda speeches and the bills passed by the Majles.

Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, Deputy for the People of Quchan: Before Anything Else the Majles Leadership and the Respected Deputies Must Safeguard the Majles' Purity

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, the deputy for the people of Quchan. In a speech, he outlined the developments in the region and said: With the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the consequences that this has had, the just position and the innocence of Islamic Iran have been proven and the undignified faces of the superpowers and the enemies of Islam have become even more obvious.

The speaker continued by asking officials to look into the problems and issues faced by the dear POW's. Regarding the policies of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, he said: While praising the government's policies in attracting cash and investment to increase internal production to activate local industry, there is this question of the removal of subsidies and the lesser roles of the cooperatives. What will now be the fate of millions of poor people with low incomes, and of the oppressed? Do they not need [word indistinct] and do their children not want to get married? Finally, how will the real owners of the revolution end up with a dignified life with honor and human dignity?

In a section of his speech he mentioned the fact that the creation and continued existence of the revolution was due to leadership of the clergy. He said: In truth, if the Imam were still alive, how would he confront RESALAT newspaper? As God is my witness, I do not want to challenge the holiness of the clergy and I want to ask all those who have known the Imam and those who are free thinkers: would the Imam tolerate all these blows against the clergy, especially coming from a newspaper that is linked to the clergy, that is proud to support the clergy? Dear ones, you, who are philosophers, know that revealing many sins is a sin in itself. It is not right to reveal a lot of the truths, let alone insults and unjust labels for people. Then why do you allow yourselves to write anything you want against any cleric whose line of thought you do not approve of—even if he does show some shakiness in some areas? The speaker added: For example concerning one clergyman who is known to all, they have asked about the house where you are living, which is worth 700 million rials—they have asked: if it does not belong to you, who has given you permission to live in it? For God's sake see where the answers to these types of questions lead. Is it to the advantage of the clergy, the regime, and the revolution to have this type of question and answer which ruin people's minds?

The speaker continued: Another issue is that in a popular regime the place of the Majles is clear. Everyone knows the views of our departed Imam and the respected leader on the subject. But my question is this: With the general attitude toward the Majles will it still be able to remain on top of affairs? Can it still be the place where the ideals and goals of the Muslim people are realized? Of course, as the saying goes, the dignity of a mosque is maintained first of all by its keeper. With regard to the Majles, before anyone else, its leadership and the respected deputies must safeguard the purity of the Majles which is the fruit of the thoughts of the people the cries of "God is great."

Unfortunately, sometimes the wrong choices made by the Majles leadership and some of the deputies have undermined the dignity and greatness of the Majles. He added; I believe that it would have been proper for the Majles leadership to close the Majles as usual on Sunday 7 October, the day before elections for the Assembly of Experts—especially following the remarks made by the respected leader. But for some reason the gentlemen did not do this. At this time the question is posed to those deputies who went on strike, who forced the Majles to close down—God forbid that this should become an example for others. The question is this: Was the fact that Sunday 7 October was not announced as a recess by the Majles leadership a legal or an illegal act? If it was against the law, which law was it against, prompting you to come forward to prevent this illegal action? If it was legal, was it not better for you to tolerate the situation and not force the Majles to close down? Second, would it not have been better for you to attend the session like those deputies who were not on leave, and then prepare a dignified statement signed by more than half of the entire number of deputies to show your support for the leader's statement with regard to the participation of all in the elections for the Assembly of Experts? If you say that you could not get enough signatures on the statement to allow it to be read on the Majles open microphones, we say that that judgement is unfair. The third issue is that if anyone has an opinion it is expressed before the intervention of the leader and not after. The best way of proving this is that you saw that after the elections nobody brought up any specific issues, and again it was you yourselves who, instead of apologizing to the people who waited anxiously for hours in front of their radios only to find that the Majles was closed, accused others and still cause tension just to find an excuse for your incorrect action. The deputy from Quachan added: There is no doubt that the velayat-e faqi [the rule of the supreme jurisconsult] is the basis of the regime in the Islamic Republic. The slightest blow against it is a blow against the entire body of the regime and an insult to the blood of the martyrs. But one must admit that the meaning of the velayat-e faqih and other connected issues have not been clarified in the society, perhaps not even among experts. This is why we have in the past as well as the present witnessed clashes and inappropriate confrontations in this regard.

The speaker continued his remarks saying: as a theological student, I hereby ask all the great teachers of the theological centers and in accordance with the decree of the ulema who must safeguard religion—especially now at this time when the leadership title is separated from that of the source of emulation—to put aside many of the ordinary lessons in the centers to clarify the important issues that are bothering the society including that of the velayat-e faqih. They should clarify the boundaries of leadership and sources of emulation. Because the Struggles will continue time as many of these issues are solved in a fundamental way. I say this openly that there are two factions both in favor of the Islamic revolution, one supporting the line of the imam and his thoughts and the other suporting the velayat-e faqih and the leadership of Ayatolah Khamane'i. Sometimes they stand against one another. This situation will unfortunately slowly spread to society as well. As a person sympathetic to the revolution I am afraid of the evil that is brewing. The only solution is to go back to the charter of brotherhood issued by the imam just as I mentioned in one of my past speeches.

Discussions and exchanges of views and thoughts, I consider friendly and brotherly in private, but not over the open microphones of the Majles for all the newspapers to speak together or against one another. He added: Were people who want to criticize one another not supposed to gather in the presence of the respected leader to discuss the issues from time to time? I do not know why this worthy and constructive task has so far not taken place. I want to thank Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hamid Robani for his announced readiness to stage a debate with Ayatollah Azari-Qomi and other gentlemen concerning some issues in dispute, at the Feyziyeh School in the presence of theological students. I hope that for the sake of the growth of thought and awareness in the people we shall witness useful debates at theological centers and universities, and on the radio and television. All in all, dear ones, as the founder of the Islamic Republic said: The Islamic regime is a regime that rules the hearts, and ruling hearts is not done with a lot of noise, creating an atmosphere, threats, and so forth. It is only possible with logic, kindness, correct action, sacrifice, and finally, by breathing the spirit of hope and belief into the minds of the people.

This is why the enemies of the revolution, having found out who dealt the blows to them and how, decided to destroy the clergy. They martyred as many as they could, including Motahari, Beheshti, Bahonar, the martyrs of the mosques, and dozens of other clerics. Where they could not or did not want to commit murder, they set about destroying the character of the clerics, the guardians of Islam. Unfortunately, they have so far had some success. But it is amazing to see people who themselves are clerics or those who support the clergy making things easy for the sworn enemies of the revolution, who deal the heaviest blows to the clergy.

Mohammad Ebrahim Asqar-zadeh, People's deputy from Tehran: If Majles Deputies Are To Be Judged Within the Framework of Political Discernment, the Majles Will Become Impotent

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mohammad Ebrahim Asqarzadeh, from the constituency of Tehran.

He said: The things that have been said on the air—especially in the Majles and in the Friday prayers—by Mr. Hashemi, have been unfair I feel. This needs explanations and answers which I will give today. With regard to the fact that for some people it has become a certainty that the right-wing faction has won these elections, I must inform you that the figures in Tehran and throughout the rest of the country show that such a thing is definetely not the case. Those who participated more than anyone else in the elections, who put their votes in the ballot-boxes—two-thirds of the voters—are those whom you would call supporters of the radical faction, or the hardliners. This becomes quite clear from the votes from Tehran where Mr. Asgar-Oladi received 450,000 votes and Mr. Sarhadi-Zedeh 614,000 votes.

In reality, two-thirds of the people in Tehran who voted for Mr. Ahmad [Khomeyni] and Mr. Hashemi were all those who voted for Mr. Sarhadi-Zadeh in the Majles elections. Those who voted for Mr. Asgar-Oladi were not the same people who voted for Mr. Sarhadi-Zadeh and I believe that they voted neither for Mr. Ahamd, nor for Mr. Hashemi. In fact with regard to Mr. Ahmad they had said that he is not one of us.

Concerning the list of votes that the Experts received from Tehran—that is, Mr. Hashemi, some 1 million votes, Mr. Ahmad, some 980,000 votes, and so forth—with the comparison that I have done with Mr. Sarhadi-Zadeh, if the Militant Clerics (Rohaniyun) Association and other progressive organizations had fielded a list of candidates, without a doubt all their candidates would have receive votes in Tehran. This would have been enough for the whole province of Tehran, because in all of Tehran Province the total votes received by some Experts' candidates is less then the votes received by Mr. Sarhadi-Zadeh from the city of Tehran.

He added: The vote for the sixth person in Tehran Province was received by Mr. Mohammadi Gilani, who received about 590,977 votes. In the political province of Tehran, which is also the biggest province in the country, Mr. Sarhadi-Zadeh goes in place of the sixth person on the list of the Experts, and thos who voted for him would also have voted for the list put forth by the Militant Clerics (Rohaniyun.)

He added: If you think that the elections were very glorious, I will say that in an election where 31 million people have the right to vote and 11.2 million people actually participate—one-third of the population entitled to vote—what is so glorious about this? Is the participation of one-third of the entire voting population in an election which normally involves more than half of the voting population—is this something positive and glorious? Or are you saying that people did not take part because the elections for the Asembly of Experts were not political? The propaganda and publicity on the radio and television in the last two weeks before the elections, the statements and various speeches about participation being a religious duty and so forth, quoting the sources of emulation and other things, made so much fuss as if to say that the elections for the Experts are a very important political and ideological matter. Those that took part did a very good thing by participating.

These were the people who believed in the revolution, but that does not mean that we have to remain indifferent to those who did not vote. About 20 million of the voting population did not vote, and without a doubt most of them are Muslims and members of this society who always stick by the revolution and are behind the fronts. If we think that only those who voted did their religious duty, that those who did not vote did something wrong against the religion and the revolution, this is a mistake, and it means that we do not understnad our own society.

But why did such a circumstance come about? Because of the wrong actions of some people, because of the shortcomings that existed, and because of the wrong decisions that were made. There were those who believed that the protection of the law is for purposes other than those specified. Then, in this scenario that has been written, there is the aim to get rid of one faction which includes some famous people and which is sympathetic and dedicated to the revolution. Leaving aside people such as M. Karrubi—whom the Imam called a crusader in the front line of the revolution—and Messrs. Mohtashami, Khalkhali, Khatami, and so forth has caused a feeling to come forth from the people. That feeling is this: In the elections for the Assembly of Experts there are conditions, and these decisions are made in such a way that the faction in line with the Imam be set aside. The people felt that in this country, which is the symbol of Islam and the Shi'ite faith, we did not have too many clergymen or ulema to take part in the elections. This caused the elections to be held in such a way that in many provinces, instead of elections, there were selections.

To have so few candidates that even if one of them received just a single vote, he could enter the Assembly of Experts and there would be no need for any of the others' votes? Under these conditions, where there are not too many people, when there are only limited numbers who enter the Assembly of Experts, no matter what, what sort of motivation would make the people go to the polling stations?

He added: In the previous elections for the Experts we had 22.2 million potential voters, 18 million of whom took part, which is some 80 percent of the voting population. During the current elections, of 31.4 million potential voters we had no more than about 11 million. Compare this figure with last year's presidential elections, where we had 16.4 million casting votes out of a possible 30 million who could vote, which is something like 55 percent. It is interesting to note that in the political province of Tehran, of the 6.2 million people who could have voted, only 1.9 million actually cast their votes.

Mr. Asqar-zadeh said: Dear friends these elections did not have losers or winners. The truth is neither your faction nor our faction won. The loser in this country is the dignity of the revolution, the political and military system for which people of both your side and our side have sacrificed their lives to make it stand on its own feet, to bring it to its current level. It is not easy to lose this dignity, to lose all these achievements because of a series of personal preferences and a series of wrong actions.

He continued: An important achievement of the revolution are the political side and the religious and progressive side of the imam's thoughts. These two things have always come under attack from a dark trend of thought which believes in neither the political nor the religious side of the imam's thought. That black trend, although it accepts the Islamic regime, that reactionary trend, although it accepts the Islamic regime, believes that the Islamic regime is one that rules from above. The people have no role in it. They can participate if they wish, but it will not matter if they do not. Even if only 10 people vote, it is enough for us. We will lead from above and the people in effect accept and do not choose. They choose those that are a better choice so there is no need to have people coming to the polls at all. This line of thought stems from the basic idea that in an Islamic system a parliament is a joke. This is why they have always wanted to turn the Majles into a formality in the country. Through their actions, they are in effect helping those who have never agreed with the imam's political thoughts. Keep in mind that in the years before the revolution many Islamic thinkers from other Islamic countries came to Iran to try to put across in some way the theory of the people's vote, the rule of the people, consultation, and debate, but they always failed. They were never able to succeed because there was a theory in Islamic society that Islam does not go with democracy. Islam is the religion of fixed relativity and laws and logic. Islam is a religion where the people cannot come and give their opinion. Therefore the people's vote is a formality. Whereas the imam came and bravely stood in this country, and not only did he announce his own political thoughts, but he also strongly defended the tool of democracy in this country, namely, the Islamic Majles. He established the Majles and made it strong. He defended it and used this organ to announce his other political thoughts.

He added: The Imam's decrees in 1987 and 1988 and his actions in the last years of his life showed us that there was always reactionary thought which was not revolutionary, which aimed to capture positions, and which wanted to confront the imam's political and religious thought, that the imam was standing firm against this.

Asqar-Zadeh added: I believe that the Expediency Discernment Council was created because the Imam broke the deadlock in the country. This council was created to solve the people's problems. Then we saw that this movement did an about-face and started to exert pressure on the Expediency Council from the rear to make the Council pass laws. That was when we were forced to write that letter to the imam and the imam wrote back and said that we all intended to turn to the law. I regret that after the death of the imam that line of thought resurfaced and put forth a plan to close down the Majles. When the leader of the revolution stopped this current in a steadfast way, they came back again saying that they wanted to eliminate one particular line of thought. In this way they started to dig roots in the country's organizations. This dangerous idea alleges that there is a weak link in the political chain which it wants to remove and which is the people's vote, their presence, the Majles, and, in general, the fact that the people's vote is what counts. I believe that this line of thought wants to destroy this foundation. In order to do that, the first step is to remove one particular faction which will leave the Majles impotent, or else to close the Majles completely. Because under the terms of the Constitution they cannot

destroy the Majles, they want to make it impotent. If the Majles deputies lose their power or their dignity, and if they all have to be judged in terms of their political discernment, the Majles will become useless. Why does the council of Guardians say it can recognize the people's political discernment? Based on what standard? Who in this country can say one person is for the velayat-e faqih and another is not? How can you say Mr. Mohtashami does not have the right political qualifications but Mr. Khaz'ali—with that letter that the imam wrote about him—does? How can you censor the radio and television statement issued by the Militant Clerics (Rohaniyun) and the remarks of the Majles leadership? This is quite against the Constitution. This is something that the Constitution has said and an area where the mass media has to be used. This is something that was done in the past few weeks. This statement of the Militant Clerics (Rohaniyun)—whose membership includes several VIP's like the speaker of the Majles, the adviser to the leader, the minister of guidance, and several representatives of the leader—was censored. The statement of the Majles leadership was censored. Then you call this supporting the law, claiming that the people will support you? If it is felt that there is lack of honesty on this issue in the name of the law, under the cover of the law, and if other goals are being pursued under the pretext of the law, if other personal preferences are being sought, why would the people want to support this issue? He added: This remark that Mr. Hashemi made during the Friday Prayers that there may be street fighting, dear brother, is this the first election that the people have taken part in? Honestly, is this the proper way to confront the people or the political situation in society?

Mr. Asqar-Zadeh continued: I think this has nothing to do with the past, but the aim is the next elections for the fourth Majles. I hereby warn you that if conditions in the country are going to change in one direction and if I, who have been praised many times by the imam and the present leader, become afraid to come to the microphone to state the truth, how can you expect to defend this pure and dignified political system in the Islamic Republic?

He continued by saying: I would like to thank the great people who in the past few days have given speeches and issued statements. These include Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani, Mr. Javadi Amoli and especially Ayatollah Sane'i who is the hope of the theological center and the university. I hope that in the future this discussion on the Experts is analyzed carefully so that we will not dismiss the issue so lightly.

Bills passed by the Majles

The report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent indicates that the first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was a report on the first round of discussions by the commission for administrative and personnel affairs with regard to the general details of a law to establish the Ministry of Aid and Social Security. Following speeches for and against the proposal and comments made by the government's parliamentary deputy, this plan was put to the vote, but was not passed.

The second item on the agenda was the legal plan to provide facilities for the sacrificers [disabled] of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, which had been returned by the Council of Guardians. Following discussions among the deputies on the corrections made, it was passed by a majority vote.

The next item on the agenda was the second round of discussions of the education commission regarding a bill to give permission to the people to build sports clubs under the government's supervision. After discussions among the deputies the plan was ratified.

The bill specifies that the physical fitness organization is allowed to give permission to those applicants who meet the requirements to build sports' centers and is to give them permission to run such centers and to provide some facilities for them.

There was also a report on the second round of discussions by the commission of labor and social affairs with regard to a plan to extend the law on labor, technology, and health in the workplace to foreign nationals working for revolutionary organizations and those bodies engaged in the production of materials other than weaponry. Following discussions and analysis by the deputies, this plan was put to the vote and was passed.

According to the single item of this bill from the time the law is passed, all laws dealing with rules governing the security of technical and health regulations in the work place as well as the laws governing foreign nationals, will have to be observed in terms of those workers employed by revolutionary organizations and those who are not covered by any specific labor law.

The last item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was the first round of discussions by the administrative and personnel commission on a bill relating to administrative and personnel affairs in the prosecutor general's office, the courts, the revolution courts, and other organizations linked to the judiciary. Following analysis by the deputies, this was passed.

In this session there was also a report from the commission that looks into deputies' questions relating to a question posed by the deputy from Mahneshan to the minister of roads and transportation with regard to the basis for the distribution of heavy and light machinery among the various provinces, the situation of roads in his constituency, and the reason for the removal and reinstatement of the manager of the Islamic Republic's Airlines. The commission recognized the minister's reply to these questions to be convincing and adequate.

According to a report from this commission the questions which some Majles deputies put to the minister of education with regard to the reason for the expansion of the administrative personnel in the Tehran province

education office, the reason for the removal of the manager of the Tehran province education office and so forth were analyzed. The answer received from the minister of education was said to have been convincing and adequate.

The question which the deputy for Dar-e Gez put to the minister of roads and transportation with regard to the condition of the roads in his constituency was discussed by the commission in charge of answering questions. This commission ruled that the reply received from the minister of roads and transportation was convincing and adequate.

Condemning the Crimes of the Regime in Afghanistan and the Zionists by the Majles Deputies

In a letter 147 Majles deputies have severely condemned the crimes of the regime in Afghanistan and the Zionists in martyring dozens of Muslims who were praying. The text of the letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

All is from God and all will return to God.

The sudden news of the dastardly attack by some cruel criminals of the puppet, illegal, occupying, and heretic regime in Afghanistan against the ranks of those who were praying at the Friday prayers in Herat, and the martyrdom of dozens and the wounding of more than 100 Muslims at prayer during the savage attack by the Zionists against the Al-Aqsa mosque and the killing of the innocent Muslims in Palestine, have caused tremendous grief in the Muslim community and among freedom-loving peoples—attacking defenseless people in this way while they were praying—especially at this time with the presence in the region of troops from the criminal United States. We condemn these horrendous crimes, and ask the respected foreign minister to show stern reaction toward these heart-breaking incidents.

Explanation Given by the Representative of the Judiciary Concerning Comments made by Mr. Ashrafi Esfahani

Following the publication of a pre-agenda speech given by Mr. Ashrafi Esfahani on 11 October 1990, a letter from the representative of the judiciary in the elections for the Assembly of Experts responsible for choosing the leadership, addressed to Mr. Ashrafi Esfahani was published. A copy of this has been sent to the newspaper offices which you will see below:

Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Ashrafi Esfahani, the respected deputy for the people of Bakhtaran:

Greetings! This is in reference to your remarks in a pre-agenda speech given on 10 October [as published] during an open session of the Majles with regard to the intervention of the province's judges in the holding of the elections for the second round of the Assembly of Experts responsible for choosing the leadership. If reference is made to illegal intervention it is necessary to provide documents to prove the claim in order to pursue legal proceedings through the proper legal channels as son as possible.

Because otherwise the opposing side will allow itself to prepare a denial and to prepare proper legal and religious grounds.

[Signed] Advisor to the chief of the judiciary and the representative of the judiciary in the elections for the second Assembly of Experts responsible for choosing the leadership, Mohammad Reza 'Abbasi-Fard.

Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers 16 Nov

LD1611115490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The venues of Friday prayers throughout the country were, like previous Fridays, filled with the lovers of Allah and the household of the Prophet of God, Muhammad, God's peace and salutation be upon him and his companions.

In Tehran, too, the unifying Friday prayers, held at the University of Tehran and adjacent streets, with the participation of a large number of Hezbollah ummah, were led by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi. In his Friday sermons, the head of the Judiciary Branch referred first to the Persian Gulf crisis. Stressing the need for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region, he said: If war breaks out in the Persian Gulf it will be very damaging. The regional countries and the Muslims will be most harmed. He added: In this situation, the duty of international organizations which have a role to play in removing tensions and solving differences is critical. They should act in a serious manner.

Referring to Lebanon issues, Ayatollah Yazdi expressed his hope that with the ending of clashes between various factions in Lebanon, the Muslims will achieve their rights in the system ruling Lebanon. Then, elaborating on the arrogant conspiracies for creating dissension among Third World countries, he referred to the differences between the Muslims and the Hindus in Kashmir and called on the central Government of India to pay more attention to the demands of the Kashmir Muslims.

Copntinuing his sermons, Ayatollah Yazdi expressed his support for the programs of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, and said: We hope that as the result of his wise policies, the economic difficulties will be reduced day by day. The head of the Judiciary Branch also referred to the campaign against administrative corruption and said: The campaign against administrative corruption will be seriously pursued. If anyone in any position does not act according to his duties he will be subject to legal action.

Ayatollah Yazdi then called on all those who are in possession of any unauthorized weapons or explosives, and who have so far been unable to put them at the

disposal of responsible authorities, to hand them in without fear or anxiety. He also urged officials to provide all necessary facilities for such individuals.

Referring to the anniversary of the demise of Allameh Tabataba'i, he praised the services rendered by that illustrious person to Islam and the Muslims, especially to religious seminaries.

At the end of his speech, addressing court officials, he stressed: When a decree is issued, the judges are duty-bound to pass it on. Any procrastination in the implementation of the decree is harmful to both the guilty persons and to those in charge of executing the decree.

Two Azerbaijans To Start Up Cooperation Schemes

LD1411190890 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Iran's Azarbaijan Province and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan are to start joint cooperation in various industrial fields, East Azerbaijan Governor-General Akbar Parhizkar said Wednesday [14 November].

Parhizkar, now in Baku to inspect an exclusive exhibition of goods produced in West and East Azerbaijan provinces, said the mutual cooperation between the two neighboring provinces included setting up of power plants, construction of subway in Tabriz and the use of the Aras River waters for power generation.

Earlier, Parhizkar discussed with the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan various topics ranging from protection of environment in the Caspian Sea and use of the border river Aras for irrigation of farm lands to holding of permanent exhibitions on border areas.

In related news, Iran's exclusive exhibition in Baku has been warmly welcomed by the people of the republic. Products of 200 industrial and production units based in the two Iranian provinces are on display at the exhibit.

*Intercity, Intracity Telephone Rates Doubled

91AS0083P London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Following the 300 percent increase in the price of domestic and foreign postage stamps, as of 23 September of this year, the Islamic Republic Cable Company also increased the rates on domestic intercity and intracity telephone calls throughout the nation. Late last week the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reported that the new rate for domestic intercity telephone calls would be five rials, a 135 percent increase over the former rate. Reports from Tehran and the other municipalities state that in some cases the rates for telephone calls between cities have increased 100 percent. A traveler who recently came from the Islamic Republic to London for treatment told KEYHAN's reporter that currently high prices and bribery are creating unprecedented hardships for the people. This traveler said that with the increase in the price of oil in the world and the nation's increased foreign exchange revenue, the people expected that prices for services and the prices of consumer goods would gradually decrease. Even so, recent events and the increase in foreign exchange revenues not only failed to decrease the astronomical advances in the prices of goods, but on the contrary in the past few months there have been striking increases in the prices of many goods and services needed by the people, from homes and rentals, education, training, school tuition, government services including postage, telephone, water, electricity, gas, various government-regulated products such as bread, airline tickets, urban shipping costs, and other comparable goods and services.

Empty Promises To Increase Worker Wages

In his interview with KEYHAN's reporter, the traveler from Tehran presented a regrettable picture of the way terror and force are imposed on the people and brainwashing by the security forces and the regime's police agents. He said: In the past few years the regime's officials, especially those in the National Financial and Employment Affairs Organization, have on many occasions made promises to the people concerning the government's plans to increase worker wages. Every few months these promises appear in the newspapers in large headlines, and the immediate and obvious effects are increases in the prices of what the people need, rentals and other goods. The traveler added: As of this moment, no worker's wages have been increased by the government, while the rate of inflation is increasing at an astonishing pace, and in many cases the wages of a teacher or a worker are not even enough to pay his rent. In the midst of this, and because of need, some office workers, especially those workers who work in offices to which the people go and who are directly responsible for answering to the service needs of clients, openly take huge bribes from the people, without even needing to be discrete. Currently corruption, bribery, and theft have overtaken most of the Islamic regime's government organizations, from the courts to the railroad ticket offices. These organizations, where giving and receiving bribes are the most ordinary daily activities, include the Ministry of Finance (the tax offices), the telephone company, the gas company, the electric company, the official registries, the documents offices and notary publics, customs, the Water Organization, the various mayoral units, the ticket sales outlets for aircraft, buses, and trains, the prosecutors offices and courts, the banks, the visa offices, organizations involved in public security, the various foundations connected with the regime, the interest-free loan funds, and what remains of the limited partnership companies, and this does not mean that the other government organizations and entities affiliated with the regime are not guilty of bribe-taking. The traveler from Tehran said: For example, one must pay something as an additional wage more or less openly to the bank teller even to cash a check or exchange large bills for small bills. The traveler from Tehran added: Now one can imagine how the worker who does his job honorably, and who even has no choice but to do so,

must tighten his belt under the unbearable pressure of inflation and high prices, and to manage their lives and their families they must endure every kind of hardship and suffering.

Value of the Dollar Based on the Price of Goods

The traveler from Tehran discussed the high prices of most consumer goods needed by the people, especially food, construction materials, and other consumer goods. He said: With the increase in the price of oil and the large amount of foreign exchange revenue, it was hoped that the regime would lower the foreign exchange rate and thereby permit importers to import goods with cheap foreign exchange and make them available to consumers at reasonable prices. Contrary to expectations, not only did the regime not lower the price of foreign exchange, but the prices of foreign exchange have increased continuously in the last few months, and since most sellers base calculations of the prices of finished goods on the dollar, and are rightfully claiming that they have imported goods with the purchase of foreign exchange on the free market, the prices of goods increase by the hour in tandem with the increase in foreign exchange rates. The traveler from Tehran added: Just a few days ago the bakeries raised the price of bread, and for example they doubled the price of sangak bread, which sold for 20 rials a loaf until recently, to 40 rials. Elsewhere in his interview with the reporter, he said: Although the regime's officials claim that tuition is not being collected from students, school officials, out of necessity and with the complicity and even the encouragement of the Ministry of Education and Training, are collecting huge tuition fees from students. Moreover, at the beginning of the current academic year every family was obliged, in addition to the tuition paid to the educational unit, to pay about 20,000 to 30,000 tomans per child for school supplies such as coats, notebooks, books, bags, shoes, and writing materials. To illustrate the extent and manner of price increases of consumer goods and food, the traveler from Tehran gave the following figures to KEYHAN's reporter: butter, about 800 tomans per kilogram; pasteurized milk, 10 tomans; free milk [milk bought in the open market], 25 to 30 tomans per liter; cheese, about 250 to 300 tomans per kilogram; meat, 280 tomans per kilogram; grains such as peas, broad beans, lentils, split peas, and black-eyed peas, 150 to 200 tomans per kilogram. The traveler from Tehran added: The prices of various grains, which are basic and elementary foods for the people, have doubled or tripled in the last few months, and in practice this has made them unavailable to some people.

The traveler from Tehran gave comparative figures to show the difference in prices of some goods in the last few months. He said: In the last two months, following the increase in foreign exchange rates, the prices of many food items have also increased.

Pakistan

U.S., EC Members Seen as Eager for Gulf War

BK1511104590 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 90 p 9

[Editorial: "On Way to Disaster?"]

[Text] A flurry of activity on the diplomatic front with a view to averting a catastrophe in the Middle East should make no one optimistic. The political intiatives have come in response to the growing momentum towards war. Washington and some quarters in the European Community seem hell bent on forcing a military solution to the crisis arising from Iraq's misadventure in Kuwait. Speaking at Orlando, Florida, President Bush told newsmen he would seek curbs on Iraqi military power even if the latter withdrew from Kuwait, while Mrs Thatcher warned on Monday that if the sanctions failed to compel Iraq to withdraw soon, Arabs and Western forces would have no alternative but to free Kuwait by military means. Side by side, the American-sponsored multinational force is being feverishly beefed up. With more than 230,000 American troops already in position in the Gulf, the Pentagon has announced plans for a quick dispatch of another 100,000 to 150,000 troops and 1,400 tanks, while Britain intends to shore up its Desert Rats by sending more units. The naval build-up, too, meanwhile, has continued with three more American aircraft carriers on the way, taking the number in the Gulf to six. By any standards these are portentous developments.

Against this grim backdrop, King Hassan of Morocco has called for an emergency Arab summit in a last-ditch attempt to avoid war, while President Mitterrand of France and Soviet President Gorbachev have put their weight behind peace efforts, the aim being to secure Kuwait's freedom without recourse to war. A peaceful solution is still possible if the U.S. does not act precipitately. The aim of any strategy in the Gulf should not be the destruction of Mr. Saddam Husayn's military machine or the overthrow of his Ba'thist regime. The real issue is that of ending the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and liberating the emirate which lost the freedom on Aug 2. The world opinion is united on this point. To help achieve this aim, the Security Council has already opted for a peaceful solution of the crisis, the main weapon being the mandatory international economic sanctions against Iraq. There is a limit beyond which Iraq cannot stand the consequences of a prolonged economic squeeze. Accordingly, most world leaders have been pleading for giving the sanctions time to work. The Soviet Union has rejected war as an option, while President Mitterrand has shown considerable flexibility on the issue. Unlike America and Britain, the French would want an Iraqi pledge to withdraw as a basis for starting talks for an eventual peaceful settlement. Chinese Premier Li Peng also considers the military option catastrophic for the region and the world, while Mr

Husni Mubarak has made it clear that Egyptian troops were there to guard Saudi Arabia and not to take part in any fighting against Iraq.

The fact is that a consensus on the use of force, which Washington claims, exists only in the American imagination. The world does not want it, least of all the people of the region. Even in America, public opinion is turning in favour of a peaceful settlement, since defence experts estimate that there will be a minimum 30,000 casualties among the allies, most of them obviously American, in the event of war. There are also reservations about the U.S. intention to withdraw from the region even after a victory over Iraq. In fact the failure of the Gulf Cooperation Council to stem the Iraqi tide seems to have encouraged Washington to contemplate a permanent American presence in the region to guard its geopolitical interests. Such an intention clearly robs Washington of any moral justification for having a military go at Iraq. As Agha Shahi, a former Pakistan foreign minister, said in a recent speech: "Public opinion in Arab countries other than those of the Gulf would regard the U.S. plan with disapproval as being aimed at legitimising the permanent presence of the U.S. in the region". He thought it would not be surprising "if France and the Soviet Union also find the U.S. aegis unwelcome". Clearly there is still room for a peaceful solution, especially through an inter-Arab dialogue, as emphasised by the Soviet President. Otherwise, the consequences of a war in the Middle East are too horrifying to contemplate.

Kuwaiti Envoy Calls On Sharif, Discusses Gulf

BK1511155590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador to Pakistan, Qasim 'Umar al-Yaqut, called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad today. They discussed the latest situation in the Gulf.

The prime minister said Pakistan's principled stand on the Gulf crisis is clear, and Iraq should pull out from Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti ambassador thanked the prime minister for supporting the people and the government of Kuwait.

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Arrives

BK1611081790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] A three-member Sierra Leone delegation led by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Koroma arrived in Karachi last night on an official visit to Pakistan. It will hold talks with Pakistani leaders on matters of mutual interest.

Article Views Roots of Anti-Americanism

BK1511102790 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Nov 90 p 7

[Article by Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi: "Anatomy of Anti-Americanism in Pakistan"]

[Text] The US decision to suspend economic and military aid to Pakistan on the nuclear question brought to surface strong anti-American sentiments in Pakistan. The political leaders lashed out at the United States in the course of their election campaign and pledged to stand up to American pressure. This was not the first instance of a vocal expression of such sentiments; anti-Americanism has always remained a potent issue in Pakistan, although its intensity has varied over time.

There have been a couple of instances when Pakistann's top policy-makers criticised the United States in public but the unofficial and semi-official circles have been very vocal in expressing disenchaniment with the United States. Even the political groups of the right, known for their pro-US disposition, periodically criticise the United States. Protest marches and public demonstrations are also staged to give vent to these sentiments, and at times, violence is resorted to against American property in Pakistan. The most violent incident took place in November 1979, when the American Embassy in Islamabad was burnt down by a mob. Pakistan had to pay $13,652,000 as compensation for the damage to the embassy.

Most political groups in Pakistan have a strong reservation about the reliability of the United States as an ally. Some question the advisability of close identification with a superpower. Others think that American assistance has created a dependency syndrome in Pakistan's policy-makers who tend to protect the aid relationship at any cost. Still others resent what they perceive as the growing American influence on Pakistan's domestic politics: that all major decision are made with an eye on American nod of approval—a perception widely shared in Pakistan since the revival of their bilateral ties in the backdrop of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The two assistance packages since 1981, frequent [visits] of senior American military and civilian officials, the expanded activities of the US intelligence network based is Islamabad, and the study and official-business trips of a large number of Pakistan's senior and middle-level bureaucrats to the United States helped to step up American presence and influence in Pakistan.

Despite the increased American involvement, it is widely believed in Pakistan that the US commitment to Pakistan's security and territorial integrity is conditioned on the extent to which it serves America's interests in the region. As America's Pakistan policy is an appendage to its global policy, any shift in its priorities would downgrade Pakistan's position in the US worldview.

The roots of this distrust can be traced back to the fifties when Pakistan joined the US-sponsored alliances in order to secure, inter alia, military equipment and diplomatic support to offset India's substantial qualitative and quantitative advantage in military power. The United States' primary interest was the containment of the Soviet Union and communism, and the SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization] and CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] aimed at achieving that goal. Thus, Pakistan and the US developed a cooperative relationship for diverse goals.

However, the Pakistani leaders deliberately created the impression in Pakistan that its participation in the alliance system guaranteed security vis-a-vis India. The US Administration did not attempt to clarify its position on this issue and maintained an ambiguous position towards Pakistan's India problem.

It was not long that the reality began to unfold itself as the United States distanced itself from Pakistan's policy on India. Pakistan got a rude shock when the United States offered military aid to India after the Sino-Indian border conflict, 1962, in complete disregard of Pakistan's security sensitivities. Other issues which perturbed Pakistan included the unwillingness of the United States to support Pakistan on the Kashmir question to the extent the Soviet Union was prepared to back up India on this issue; the application of pressures on Pakistan when it began to improve its relations with China and the Soviet Union in the early sixties; and the US refusal to help Pakistan during its wars with India in 1965 and 1971, even though they maintained security ties.

Three other issues reinforced the impression that the United States was not a reliable ally and that it wanted Pakistan to identify with its globeal objectives without undertaking a reciprocal obligation towards Pakistan's foreign policy goals: arms embargoes and the suspension of economic assistance; favourable disposition towards India's leadership role in South Asia; and nuclear issue. The US arms embargoes in 1965 and 1971 seriously affected Pakistan's defensive capability as it was more dependent than India on American arms and equipment. The withdrawal of the A-7 aircraft sale offer in 1977, and the suspension of economic and military aid in 1979 estranged Pakistan. Since 1987, the United States regularly delayed the release of new aid to Pakistan at the beginning of the financial year in October. The accumulative impact of these incidents was the ascendancy of the viewpoint in Pakistan that the US was not a reliable partner.

This point of view was further reinforced by the US policy in the seventies to publicly acknowledged India's leadership role in South Asia. It was argued in Pakistan that the US desire to wean India away from the Soviet Union impelled the US to endorse India's role in the region and that such a consideraton would always be a constraint on its ability to cultivate Pakistan. No matter what Pakistan was prepared to do for the United States, the Latter would not support Pakistan in a manner that completely alienated India.

The most serious damage to the United States reputation was caused by its opposition to Pakistan's nuclear programme. Its role in securing the cancellation of the Franco-Pakistan agreement for the supply of a nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan (1978) caused much bitterness in Pakistan. The United States decision in April 1979 to suspend economic assistance and military sales to Pakistan on the pretext that Pakistan was pursuing a non-peaceful nuclear programme was viewed in Pakistan as discriminatory. What irritated Pakistanis most was that while applying pressure on Pakistan to discontinue its nuclear programme, the Carter Administration supplied nuclear fuel for an Indian nuclear power plant.

The massive propaganda campaign against Pakistan's nuclear programme in the American media in 1979-80 perturbed Pakistan's policy-makers. There were widespread rumours in Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1979 aid cut-off that the United States might undertake a commando operation or an air raid to destroy Pakistan's nuclear facilities at Kahura. The US ambassadors to Pakistan often lashed out publicly at Pakistan's nuclear polity which fuelled anti-American sentiments. Similarly, American criticism of the French offer of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan in February 1990 did not help its image in Pakistan.

The United States is also subjected to criticism in the context of its perceived influence on Pakistan's domestic politics, and especially the role of aid and advisors in shaping Pakistan's economic priorities and policies. The military and the burcaucracy have been the major beneficiaries of the assistance programmes which reinforced the existing imbalances between them and the political institutions. Whereas the political institutions degenerated, the military bureaucratic elite acquired greater confidence due to the support they enjoyed from a superpower. The modernisation of their organisational resources, the strengthening of the control apparatus, and the perks that flowed from American assistance contributed to tenacity in their conviction as to how best Pakistan could be administered. Those who suffered at the hands of the military-bureaucratic elite not only opposed them but they also targeted the United States for criticism as the "patron" of the military-bureaucratic elite.

Some resentment against the United States can be traced to the demonstration-effects of the high profile of the American civilian and military advisors/consultants and diplomats in their jobs and the 'lavish' life-style they pursue. It causes much resentment in a Third World and Islamic country like Pakistan, not to speak of the debate in the academic and political circles on the cost and benefits of foreign aid and especially the advisers attached with the aid programmes.

The US diplomats have a greater access to the power elite and enjoy more freedom than most other diplomats in Pakistan to interact with local political leaders, the Press, and the academia. The fact that the US Ambassador was informed of the President's decision to dismiss Benazir Bhutto a couple of hours in advance, and that she also approached him on this issue speaks for the privileged position of the United States in Pakistan.

The United States is also criticised in Pakistan because of its support to Israel which is viewed as the main cause of Israel's intransigent disposition towards the national rights of the Palestinians and its continued occupation of the Arab territories. The US opposition to the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the labelling of Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

as a "terrorist" and the punitive raids on Libyan territory evoked a lot of resentment at the popular level in Pakistan.

Despite these problems in the US-Pakistan relations, Pakistan's policy-makers have traditionally valued American economic and military assistance. Whenever aid is suspended, they endeavour to have it restored. The new Pakistani government is not likely to follow a different course of action. Its room for manoeuvre is limited. The military and the bureaucracy are in favour of continuing with this relationship. The negative economic impact of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict has pushed Pakistan into a tight corner and it will not be an easy job to take a bold initiative on the aid question. Above all, with the decline of the Afghan issue's erstwhile relevance to American strategic thinking and the reduction of tension between the two superpowers, the US ability to pressure Pakistan has increased.

Measures to Cushion Oil Price Hike Announced

BK1511165190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The government has announced relief measures to offset the effect of increases in petroleum prices. The measures include drastic reduction in duties and surcharges on public transport vehicles. In future, there would be no import duty sales tax or surcharges on buses and coaches with more than 40 seats. Duty will not be levied on trucks, pickups, delivery vans, mini-buses or coasters if these are imported in CKD [completely knocked down] condition. In case the imports are in CBU [completely built up] condition, only iqra [educational] and import surcharge would be leviable. Duty and sales tax have been abolished. A handout in Islamabad said rates of conveyance allowance admissible to government employees as well as those of public sector corporations has been enhanced by over 20 percent subject to a minimum of 20 rupees and maximum of 50 rupees per month. Private companies would also give a similar benefit to their employees. These orders will take effect from tomorrow.

In order to provide atta [wheat flour] at cheaper rates, the utility stores corporation has been directed to arrange supply of good quality atta at all its stalls. The price of whole-meal atta will be three rupees and 10 paisa per kg. Five percent bran extracted atta will be availabe at three rupees and 20 paisa and that of 10 percent bran extracted atta will be three rupees and 30 paisa per kg.

Bhutto Criticizes New Government's Industrial Policy

BK1511011590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Nov 14 (AFP)—Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Wednesday the new government's industrial policy would slow rural development and concentrate activity in already developed areas.

Ms. Bhutto told a news conference here her government had announced concessions for rural areas to try to accelerate industrial development, "but it would now be retarded."

The industrial policy of her successor, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, "would lead to concentration of industrial activities in already developed areas and retard the development of backward and rural areas," she said.

Mr. Sharif has announced a tax holiday throughout Pakistan to speed up industrialisation, but Ms. Bhutto said his policy would lead to further rural migration to over-populated urban areas.

She also criticised the new government's decision to denationalise the country's five banks by selling them to the highest bidder as "a conspiracy against the working class."

Mr. Sharif said Tuesday the banks' original owners would be offered the banks for the same price tendered in the highest bid. If they refused the offer, the banks would go to the highest bidder. He said his government was "committed to accelerate the pace of development" and would usher in a new era of partnership with the private sector.

Ms. Bhutto also accused the new government of "harassing and arresting" her party workers to "pressure and wipe us out as an opposition party."

The government wanted to destroy her because it thought she was the main vote-winner for the opposition groups, the People's Democratic Alliance and People's Progressive Party, she said.

The PDA's parliamentary leader in Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, also at the news conference, accused the new government of ethnic bias in firing more than 100 Sindhi workers at Pakistan Steel here.

PPP Karachi Leader Arrested for 'Terrorism'

BK1511103190 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Karachi—Masroor Ahsan, PPP President of Karachi District West, has been arrested by local police on charges of terrorism and other illegal activities. Masroor was elected Senator, however, did not take oath in pursuance of a Lahore High Court order. PPP local leaders have alleged that the Jam [Sadig Ali] government in Sindh has resorted to victimisation and the PPP workers are being booked under false cases.

Rally Reported To Back Former Afghan King

BK1511102590 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Peshawar— Big demonstrations were staged in Kabul and in liberated areas of Afghanistan in support of former Afghan King Zahir Shah, said reports reaching here from across the border.

Reports further said that people carrying placards were demanding the early return of former Afghan monarch. They were of the view that only solution of the Afghan problem was to hand over country's reigns [as published] to Zahir Shah.

They called upon the Afghan Government and other warring parties to stop bloodshed in Afghanistan, and a government should be formed under the head of ex-King Zahir Shah.

Sri Lanka

Compensation for Gulf Losses Sought From ILO

BK1511111490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Sri Lanka is to seek compensation from the International Labor Organization [ILO] for losses incurred to the country due to the Gulf crisis. A joint memorandum prepared at the labor ministers meeting to be held in Geneva on Monday will be presented to the ILO. This was stated by the minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, at a news conference held in Colombo yesterday. The minister plans to request assistance from the ILO to rehabilitate Sri Lankans affected by the Gulf crisis.

Addressing the media men, Minister Premachandra said that Sri Lanka is losing 6,500 million rupees annually due to the problems in the Middle East. He added that 71,000 Sri Lankans have already been repatriated from Kuwait. The minister will also attend the special conference of the labor ministers of the nonaligned countries to be held in Tunisia from the 21st to the 23d of this month. Sri Lanka will chair the labor ministerial meeting of the ILO to be held in Geneva. Mr. G.M. Premachandra will leave Sri Lanka tonight to attend the meeting.

Premadasa Greets 'Arafat on PLO National Day

BK1511103490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0939 GMT 15 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 15 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, has sent a message of felicitation to the president of the State of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, on the occasion of the national day of the State of Palestine, which falls on 15th November 1990, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Security Forces To Use Tamils Against LTTE

BK1611113590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Security forces have been asked to deploy top EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] cadres to protect Tamil villagers in secured areas of the northeast. A large number of Tamil refugees still lingered in camps in areas like Tirrukkovil fearing to return to their homes because of Muslim home guards. The Special Task Force operating in that region has been told to induct more TELO members to protect those Tamil hamlets, instill confidence into the people, so that they would go back to their homes. Plantation Industries Minister and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne disclosed yesterday.

Addressing journalists at the weekly Cabinet news conference at the Colombo Gramodaya Center, the minister said that there were in fact small anti-LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] groups working with the government to combat the Tigers, but it has now been decided to use such cadres on a more extensive scale to provide protection to Tamil villagers. When I visited Tirrukkovil, which is a predominantly Tamil area recently, I saw a number of Tamil refugees, who had streamed in from the Veeramunai region, still in camps. They feared to return because of Muslim home guards. I told them that the security forces would ensure that the Muslim home guards conducted themselves properly, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Mannar Cleared of LTTE; Muslims May Return

BK1511102290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0804 GMT 15 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—Mannar Island has been secured by the forces. It has been cleared of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and Muslims who fled the area are free to go back to their homes. This was stated by Minister of Plantation and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne at the Cabinet news briefing at the Gramodaya Centre in Colombo today. He said that 500 Muslim home guards who are being trained by the security forces will be deployed to protect Muslim villages. Mr. Wijeratne said that the Navy will provide vessels from Kalpitiya for those who wish to return to Mannar Island. He said that anti-LTTE Tamil groups were being utilized to identify LTTE cadres.

In reply to a question, Mr. Wijeratne said: They (the anti-LTTE groups) are not on their own. They know the LTTE.

Mr. Wijeratne said that orders had gone out to the forces to avoid carrying out attacks on the areas demarcated by the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]. He said that the Madawachiya-Mannar road will be soon cleared so that the overland route could also be made use of for the transport of food supplies.

He said that the LTTE in separate attacks last week killed six persons, including 2 policemen, yesterday. Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's Cabinet news briefing were, the minister of state for information; secretary, Ministry of Defence, General Cyril Ranatunge; secretary, Ministry of State for Defence, Air Chief

Marshal Walter Fernando; and presidential advisor on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon.

LTTE Camp Raided; Refugees Die in Boat Attack

BK1611085090 Hong Kong AFP in English
0828 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 16 (AFP)—Police commandos raided a large transit camp of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in eastern Sri Lanka as army soldiers killed six rebels in fresh violence in the island's north, officials said Friday.

Crack members of the elite Special Task Force (STF) police unit raided the LTTE transit camp in Ampara District on Thursday, a military spokesman here said, adding the commandos seized a large haul of weapons.

Among the weapons captured were several AK-47 assault rifles, U.S.-made G-3 rifles, light machine guns, mortars and about 4,000 rounds of ammunition, the spokesman added.

Kayts and areas bordering the Palaly airfield were under rebel control before they were liberated by the army during two major offensives in September and October.

But troops have frequently come under fire from rebels who managed to infiltrate army positions.

Meanwhile, the LTTE, referring to an incident on Tuesday off the Jaffna Peninsula, has alleged that the navy killed six Tamil refugees fleeing to India.

The military spokesman said that five people died when the navy attacked the boat near Analativu Island but charged that the boat was manned by the Tigers.

In a statement received here late Thursday from the guerrilla group's London office, it said that the boat was carrying refugees from Analativu Island to India when it was "stopped by the navy and attacked."

"Six refugees have been killed in this incident," the statement said, and quoted refugees who escaped as saying the navy fired at those in the boat without questioning them.

The military spokesman said that the navy opened fire on the boat when it failed to heed warning shots fired by a navy craft.

While admitting there were refugees in the boat, he said that Tigers in the vessel had forced the crew to proceed, "ignoring the warning shots fired by the naval craft."

Similar skirmishes have occurred near the outlying islands of the Jaffna Peninsula since the navy tightened a cordon around sea routes used by the Tigers to escape to southern India.

More than 100,000 Tamil refugees have fled by boat to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu following violence in the island's predominantly Tamil northeast.

A small stretch of sea separates southern India from northern Sri Lanka.

More than 4,575 people are reported to have died since June in the secessionist war.